

Crystal Ornaments Worksheet

Observations

Sketch a few of the crystals as observed under magnification.

Post-Lab Questions and Analysis

1. Describe two ways an unsaturated solution could become saturated.
2. Examine several crystals. Explain why the crystals are not identical.
3. Based on your observations of the crystals, which of the seven unit cell types do you think is the “building block” of sodium borate crystals? *Hint*: Sodium borate crystals take on a prismatic form as they typically grow longer in one direction than in the other two.
4. Describe two important factors in the way this experiment was carried out that led to the formation of large crystals.
5. Geologists describe igneous rocks as *extrusive* (formed from lava on the Earth’s surface) or *intrusive* (formed from magma deep within the Earth). In which type of rock would you expect to find larger mineral crystals? Why?