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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?

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