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The Wacky World of Superabsorbent Polymers Demonstration Worksheet

Discussion Questions

1. Describe what happened in this demonstration. Also describe the difference between the two substances that were produced.

2. Why do you think sodium polyacrylate is called a "superabsorbent polymer?"

3. Water is absorbed into the sodium polyacrylate because there is such a high sodium ion concentration inside the polymer that water is forced into it, through osmosis, in order to balance out the sodium ion concentration. What do you think would happen if sodium chloride were added to the gel?

4. One of sodium polyacrylate's most common uses is in diapers. Why do you think this is? Name one other product you think it might be used in.

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