Weathering (sedimentary)

Objective:
To observe changes in materials when exposed to the elements..

Materials:
Two pieces of steel wool
Two plastic containers one with a lid
A piece of paper and pen or pencil to record your observations

Sample Chart:

Steel Wool Descriptions			
Date	Inside	Outside	Weather Conditions

Procedure:

1. Place each piece of steel wool into an open plastic container
2. Put one container outside in a place where it will be exposed to air and precipitation.
3. Place the other container inside
4. Draw and describe each sample and set up a chart to record your observations
5. Observe each piece of steel wool each day for a month and record your observations
6. At the end of the month compare the two samples and draw and describe the results.

Observation Questions:

1. Describe the changes you observed.
2. Compare and contrast the two pieces of steel wool.

Analysis Questions:

1. What conditions do you think caused the differences between the two pieces of steel wool? What type of weathering did you observe? Explain why.
2. Which piece of steel wool would be the control in this experiment? Explain why.

Follow ups:

Place a third piece of steel wool in a plastic container with a tight fitting lid and place the closed container in the outside location. Check the steel wool in a month. Record the results.

Manipulate other variables like temperature, amount of moisture and observe any changes. (Or repeat the experiment at different times of the year)