**Antarctic Water Paintings**

**Overview:** Students draw pictures of life in the Antarctic waters and learn about evaporation.

**Ages:** 5 – 10

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials Required:** water, salt, food coloring, paper cups & white paper

**Objective:** Have students create their own paintings reflecting what they’ve learned about Antarctica. Have students observe what evaporates & what doesn’t.

**Instructions:**

- Mix _ cup of warm water with six teaspoons of salt & 3 drops of food coloring in a paper cup.
- Mix well. Repeat with other colors so that each group of students has two or three colors to work with.
- Ask students to draw pictures of what they might see on a Scuba expedition in Antarctica. Make a list of the fish and birds that inhabit Antarctica and its waters. Some include penguins, seals, starfish, squid, toothfish, and whales.
- Let dry.
  The water evaporates but the colored salt remains, creating beautiful pictures.

**Follow-up Questions:**

What evaporated & what stayed on the paper?
Why do you think the water evaporated?
What happens to you when you come out of the water at the beach and lie down in the sun? Do you see any salt on your skin? Why is it there?
Do you think if you jumped into the Antarctic waters, salt would dry on your skin? Or would you have to wear a scuba suit?
Do you think salt dries on the backs of seals and penguins?

(This activity was adapted from “Treasures@ Sea: Art Activities, http://sln.fi.edu/fellows/fellows9/dec98/art.html)