

How is Natural Gas Found?

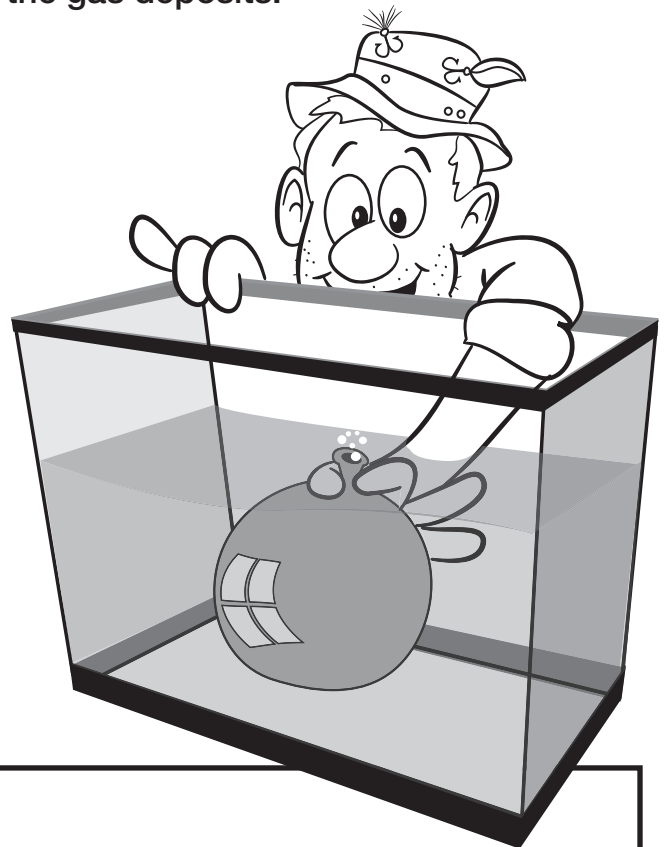
Natural gas is located within the earth. To find natural gas, geologists send shock waves downward through the surface of the planet. Once the waves have been sent, the scientists measure how long it takes the waves to bounce back. When a gas deposit is located, a derrick is constructed to support the equipment needed for accessing the natural gas. After the gas is removed from the earth it goes to a processing plant and then to a regulator station to control the amount of gas that is pumped to our homes. At the regulator station the chemical *mercaptan* is added to help people detect natural gas leaks. Use this activity to show how natural gas is trapped below the earth and the tremendous pressure on the gas deposits.

Materials:

- Aquarium or other large clear container
- Balloon

Instructions

Fill an aquarium half full of water. Blow up a balloon and hold the opening closed as you submerge the balloon in water. Discuss what would happen if you drilled a hole to where the natural gas was trapped. Let air out of balloon under water.



Discussion Questions

1. How do you think gas is obtained from below the surface of the earth?
2. How is gas sent from where it is found to homes, schools and businesses?
3. What pipes or wires can be found underground?