

Science Project, Wk. 15 -- Sinkers (#127)

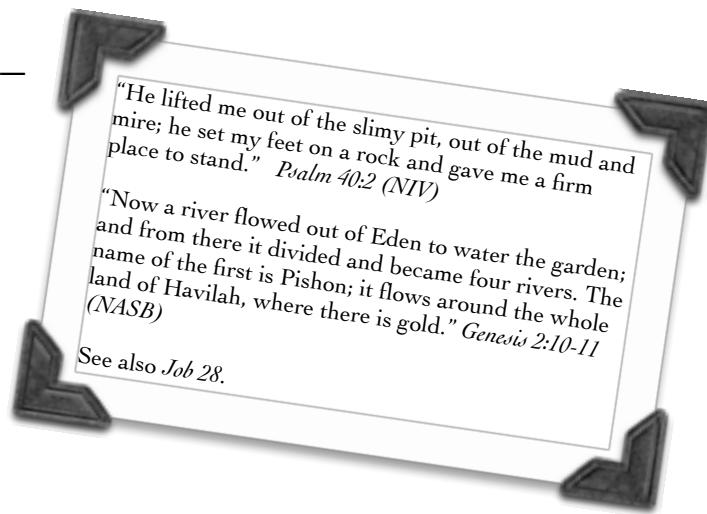
Name: _____

Purpose: To demonstrate how **placer ore** deposits form.

Materials: quart (liter) glass jar with lid, tap water,
1 cup soil, 5 paper clips

Procedure:

- Add the soil and paper clips to the jar.
- Fill the jar half-full with water.
- Stir (or close the lid and shake) the contents together.
- Allow the jar to stand undisturbed for 5 minutes.



Hypothesis (CIRCLE): After 5 minutes,

the paper clips will be above the soil.

the paper clips will be below the soil.

Result (CIRCLE): After 5 minutes,

the paper clips were above the soil.

the paper clips were below the soil.

Conclusion:

The paper clips are heavier than the soil, so they settle first. The soil settles over the paper clips, burying them on the bottom of the jar. This experiment gives us a glimpse at what goes on in nature. Rain beats on top of the soil, shaking and softening it. Over many years, the heaviest materials sink lower and lower underground. Heavy particles of metal sink until they reach a hard rock layer. The combined layer of metal particles form deposits called **placer ore**. Placer mining is an important source of gold. Other substances commercially mined from placer deposits include platinum, tin, titanium, uranium, and diamonds.

Sketch:

