

# Extracting lithium using string

Slide by Neil Goalby. Available from [rsc.li/45CUvvW](https://rsc.li/45CUvvW)

Lithium mining demands a lot of energy, chemicals, land and time. It typically involves pumping brine from underground sources to form surface pools. Water is left to evaporate for up to 18 months to allow lithium salts to form and crystallise.

However, this method is known to contaminate ecosystems.

Scientists have developed a new crystallisation technique that uses specially designed strings to draw up the brine solution. The water then evaporates from the strings' surface and leaves behind lithium and sodium crystals.



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*Strings that provide a rapid solution to satisfy global lithium demand*

## Questions

1. Describe how crystallisation is carried out in a school practical.
2. Give three disadvantages of extracting lithium using the common method.
3. Suggest an advantage of using the string method.