Rusty

Name _____ Date_____

Let's take a look at the common, everyday occurrence of rust. We see rust, that reddish-brown flaky stuff, on the sides of old cars, or on our bicycle that we absent-mindedly left outside for an entire winter. But what is rust caused by?

Methods

Materials:

-Two pieces of steel wool - Two pie pans -Two glass cups or beakers
-water -Two pieces of clay or putty

Procedures:

1. Fill the pie pan with water until it is half full.
2. Stick the putty to one side of the steel wool, and attach the steel wool to the bottom of the glass.
3. Place the glass, upside down, into the pie pan.
4. Leave this to sit overnight and observe any changes during the next few days.
5. Repeat the same procedure with the second set of materials, only this time, fill the pie pan with more water.
6. Let the second set sit overnight as well.

Conclusions:

1. Which element in the steel goes rusty? Explain your answer

2. Describe the changes that occur in the element caused by rusting.

3. Explain how metals resist corrosion?

4. Suggest how acid rain affects the speed at which metals corrode.