

Oil and Natural Gas Lab

Materials: lettuce (iceberg), measuring cup, baggies, refrigerator, markers, thermometer

Goal: Replicate some (but not all) aspects of oil and natural gas formation.

Pre-Lab questions (based on prior knowledge):

- 1) What are some conditions required for there to be oil or natural gas production in the earth?
- 2) Approximately how long does it take oil to form?

Procedure:

- 1) Measure two cups of lightly crushed iceberg lettuce.
- 2) Place one cup of lettuce in a ziplock bag and label the bag “warm.” Place the other cup of lettuce in a ziplog back labeled “cold.”
- 3) Distribute the lettuce along the bottom of each bag and roll the bags from the bottom to remove as much air as possible. Seal each bag.
- 4) Unroll and observe each bag now and each day for the next two weeks. See the “observations” lab sheet.
- 5) Place the bag labeled “cold” in a refrigerator.
- 6) Note the temperature of the refrigerator and room.

