

MAKE YOUR OWN CRYSTALS!

These are the materials we will need:

- Salt
- Measuring cup
- String or yarn
- Stick, craft stick, pencil
(needs to be longer than the top of the cup that you are using)
- Scissors
- Chenille stem
- Cup
- Food coloring (optional)
- Spoon for stirring
- Warm water
- Table
- Plastic table cloth
(sometimes science can be a bit messy so be sure that when doing experiments, you are using a space that is okay to be a bit messy in and taking precautions, like putting down a table cloth)

Now that we have all our materials let's start making some crystals.

Step 1: Fill your cup with 1 cup of warm water.

Step 2: While mixing, slowly pour in 2/3 cup of salt. Continue mixing until the salt has dissolved. You can add food coloring into the water at this point, but I have found that it doesn't really affect the color of the crystal too much, so it is optional to add it.

Step 3: Make a shape with your chenille stem, you can do a circle or zip zag or spiral. I am going to make a star. Be sure that the shape that you make will fit into your cup without touching any of the sides.

Step 4: Cut a piece of string and tie one end of the string to the top of your shape and the other end of the string to your stick. Be sure that your shape is tied low enough so that the shape is submerged in the water, but high enough so that the shape does not touch the bottom or sides of the cup.

Step 5: Place your shape into the salt water solution and rest the stick on top of the cup.

Step 6: Wait!! Find a spot where your crystal won't be disturbed or bumped. Depending on the type of salt you use it may take several days to a week for your salt crystals to fully form. I made an example for you 3 days ago and this is how much the crystals have grown since then. Check back each day to observe your crystal growth. You can keep your shape in your salt water solution for a couple weeks to watch the crystals continue to grow or you can pull out your crystal and display it somewhere in your house.

Step 7: Clean up! You always want to be sure that when you make a fun science mess you also clean up the fun science mess.