

FIG at Home

CRYSTAL SNOWFLAKES

Let's be crystal clear: This science activity is stellar!

MATERIALS

- Pipe cleaner
- Nylon thread
- Borax powder (about ½ cup)
- Wide mouth canning jar
- Boiling water
- Spoons (for measuring and stirring)
- Scissors and a pencil

INSTRUCTIONS

Safety notes: Be careful with boiling water around young children. Borax is safe for kids to handle, but it will irritate sensitive skin or if it gets into eyes. Also consider hanging crystals up high as Borax is inedible.

1. Cut a pipe cleaner into thirds. Each piece is about 3-4 inches.
2. Fold each piece in half and twist together to make the snowflake.
3. Tie one end of the nylon thread (about 12 inches) to one of the snowflake arms. Tie the other end to your pencil.
4. Make sure your snowflake is small and narrow enough to fit easily inside the jar. It will grow larger with the crystals. Trim if needed.
5. Fill the jar with boiling water.
6. Start adding Borax powder one tablespoon at a time and stir. Keep adding Borax until your solution is super saturated and you cannot add anymore without powder settling at the bottom of the jar. We used 4 tablespoons per cup.
7. Add the snowflake to the jar and solution. Be sure the snowflake is completely submerged, but it is not touching the sides or the bottom of the jar. Twist the string around your pencil to adjust the height.
8. Set the jar in a place where it will not be disturbed.
9. After 24 hours (or longer) carefully pull out the crystal snowflake.
10. Hang it up where the light can reflect off the dazzling crystals!



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