

CREATING CRAZY CRYSTALS



SUPERNOVA
DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY | HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

GROW YOUR OWN CRYSTALS IN A JAR!

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MATERIALS

- 1 kettle (filled with water)
- 3 large cups filled with epsom salts
- 3 clear jars
- 3 popsicle sticks
- 3 pipe cleaners
- Food colouring

40 MINS

PROCEDURE

Step 1

Fill 3 glass jars about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the way up with the hot water (don't overflow).

Step 2

Fill 3 dixie cups (or similar sized container) to at least 80% full with epsom salt. Pour the epsom salt into the water, stir the mixture and add 5 drops of food colouring.

Step 3

Wrap one end of the pipe cleaner around the popsicle stick, so that there's a longer tail of pipe cleaner hanging off!

*Make this into whatever shape you want..

Step 4

Lay the popsicle stick across the glass so that the pipe cleaner is submerged. Refrigerate jars overnight with lids off.

Step 5

The next day, remove your jars, and drain off the excess liquid so that only the crystals remain.

PURPOSE & SCIENCE OUTCOMES

- Crystallization occurs in nature when magma cools, and minerals solidify out.
- The epsom salt crystals will have needle-like shapes, but other crystal shapes include cubic, rhombohedral, & hexagonal prisms!

ANY QUESTIONS? REACH OUT @SUPERNOVAATDAL