



CRYSTAL SNOWFLAKES

Overview and objective:

Students will learn about the process of crystallization as they make crystal 'snowflakes'.

Crystals often form in nature when liquids cool and start to harden. Certain molecules in the liquid gather together as they attempt to become stable. They do this in a uniform and repeating pattern that forms the crystal.

- crystals can form when liquid rock (magma) cools. Many valuable crystals, such as diamonds and emeralds, form this way.
- crystals also form when water evaporates from a mixture. Salt crystals often form as salt water evaporates.

Procedure:

1. Cut a pipe cleaner into three equally sized pieces.
2. Push the pieces together, pinch them in the middle, then twist. You're looking to create a star or snowflake shape.
3. Trim up the edges to make the six prongs equal length.
4. Take your string. Tie one end around the middle of your snowflake.
5. Loop the other end of the string around pen so that the pipe cleaner can suspend in the jar.
6. Pour the boiling water (approximately 1 ½ cups) into the empty jar.
7. Add 1 cup of borax and stir briskly until fully dissolved.
8. Add food coloring.
9. Carefully drop your snowflake into the jar, letting it suspend in the solution by the pen.



WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Boiling Water (adult supervision please!)
- 1 cup Borax
- Scissors
- String
- Food coloring
- Pipe cleaners
- A pen
- A jar



24 hours later:

The Borax has crystallized onto the pipe cleaner, making snowflakes ready to hang from the tree!



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