



FUN FACT
Snowflakes are ice crystals that form when water droplets freeze in the sky.



WARNING!
Ask an adult's permission before using the stove.

Create colorful crystal shapes and letters

What You Need

- Colorful pipe cleaners
- Glass jar
- Pencil
- String
- Measuring cup
- Saucepan
- Borax (a toxic ingredient, so be careful when using)
- Tablespoon

Instructions

1. Bend a pipe cleaner into a letter or another shape, such as a star or heart. Make sure it will fit in the opening of the jar without being too tight. The letter will get larger once the crystals grow on it. Make as many shapes as you like.
2. Tie each shape to a pencil with string. Place the pencil across the jar so the letter hangs in the jar. The letter should not touch the bottom or sides of the jar. Remove the letter and set aside.
3. Measure enough water to fill the jar. On the stove, pour the water from the jar into a saucepan. Heat the water until it nearly simmers (starts to form bubbles). Turn off the stove and remove the pan from the heat.
4. Dissolve 3 to 4 tablespoons of borax for every cup of water in the saucepan. Stir the borax until it dissolves and the water is clear. (It's OK if there are a few crystals at the bottom of the saucepan that won't dissolve.)
5. Pour the solution into the jar. Place the pencil over the jar so the letter is suspended in the water.
6. Leave the jar undisturbed for about 12 hours. In just a couple of hours of putting your letter in the solution, crystals will begin to grow on it. Crystals will continue to grow for about a day.
7. When you're happy with your letter, remove it from the solution. Let it dry on a paper towel, then use it as a decoration, gift tag, or ornament.



ECO TIP OF THE WEEK GIVE BIRDS A SPOT TO COOL DOWN

Hot weather can leave some garden birds struggling to find natural water pools. Birds need water for drinking and bathing. They don't have sweat glands, but they still lose water through breathing, so they need water to rehydrate. The National Audubon Society has some tips for helping birds during the summer months. Keep a birdbath filled with water, or make one in your outdoor space with an old shallow cake pan or plate. Place it out in the open, near a shady spot. Add tap water and put some pebbles in it to give birds a better grip. Change the water every few days.



Birds need a break from the heat.