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# Grow crystal snowflakes

Watch wintry sparkles appear on these seasonal shapes.

## What you need

- Two white or two blue pipe cleaners
- String
- Wooden dowel or lollipop stick
- Glass jar
- Borax (or salt)
- Hot water
- Spoon

## How does it work?

This experiment shows the process of crystallisation – when solid crystals form from a liquid solution. It relies on the fact that more of a substance can be dissolved in hot liquid than in cold liquid. When no more borax or salt can be dissolved, the solution is “saturated”. As the solution cools, crystals start to leave the liquid and build up on the pipe cleaners. Borax crystals will last longer than salt crystals.



**1** Take a length of pipe cleaner and cut it into three equal pieces. Twist the pieces together to make a star shape with six points.



**2** Take a second pipe cleaner and cut it into six equal pieces. Then, twist one piece around each of the six points to make a snowflake.



**3** Attach your snowflake to a stick using string. Adjust the length of the string, so it won't touch the sides or bottom when placed in the jar.

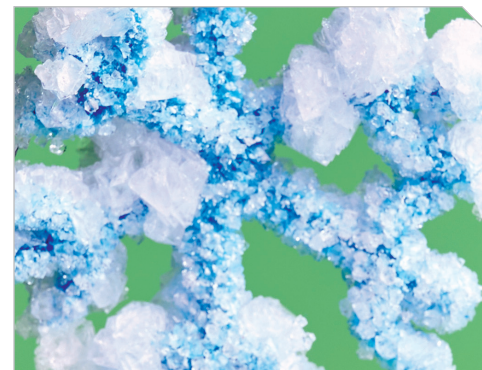
**WARNING!**  
Borax can irritate skin, so wear gloves. Do not swallow or get it in your eyes.



**4** Ask a grown-up to put five tablespoons of borax into hot water in a jar and stir to dissolve it. If using salt, add it until no more will dissolve.



**5** Carefully dangle your snowflake inside the jar, fully immersing it in the liquid. Leave it for a couple of days and watch as the crystals appear.



**6** Finally, remove it from the jar and dry on a paper towel. Untie the string from the stick and hang your snowflake on your Christmas tree.

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