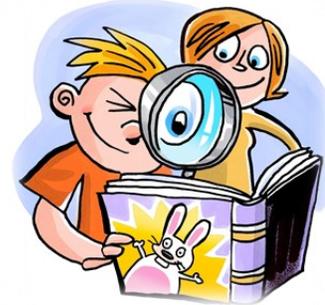


Grow Your Own Crystals!

For this activity you will need:

- A glass jar
- Food colouring (optional)
- 1/2 cup water
- 1/2 cup table salt
- Small saucepan
- String
- Pencil (or popsicle stick)
- Coffee filter



1. Pour 1/2 cup of water into a saucepan and heat until it just begins to boil.
2. Take your pan off the heat.
3. Pour 1/2 cup of table salt into the pan a little at a time and stir. Keep doing this until the salt you add does not dissolve anymore and there are grains at the bottom of the bowl.

4. Pour the salt and water mixture into a clean glass jar. Only pour out the liquid and make sure no extra salt grains enter the jar.



5. Add a few drops of food colouring and stir gently.
6. Tie some string around the middle of a pencil.
7. Cut string to size so that when placed inside the jar, it will almost touch the bottom.

8. Balance the pencil on top of the jar and let the string dangle in the mixture.
9. Place a coffee filter on top of your jar to protect it from dust.



Did you know?

You've just created a "supersaturated" solution! That means your solution contains more salt than the water can hold! This is why the salt doesn't dissolve after a while!

10. Move your jar to a safe place where it will be warmed by the sun. You can also place a fan on a low setting near it to speed up the growth.

11. Watch and wait for the crystals to grow. The longer you wait, the more crystals will grow! If you're still waiting and more than half of your water has evaporated, make another salt and water solution and pour it in.

12. Once you are happy with your crystal's size, pull the string out of the water and remove from the stick.

Congratulations! You've made a homemade crystal!



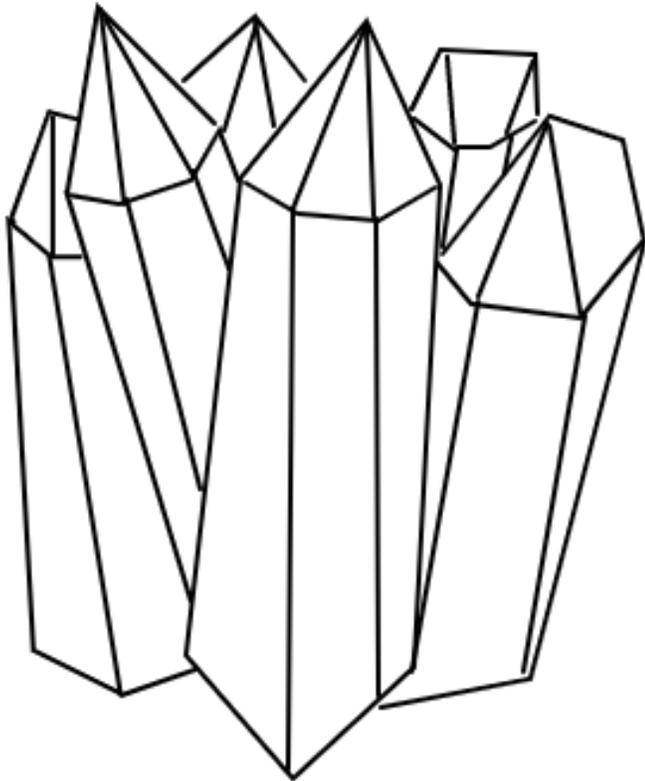
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Experience **Community**

Record Your Observations!



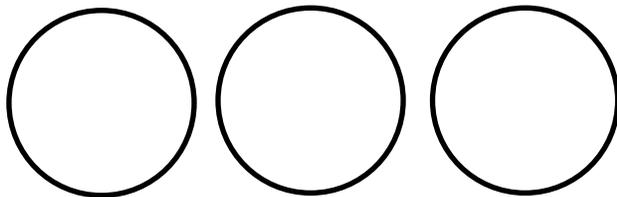
Colour in this crystal to make it look like the crystal you made!



Record your crystal's growth and progress!

| Day | Growth | Notes |
|-----|--------|-------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

colours used:



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