

Science of the Season: Salt Crystal Snowflakes

Materials

- Salt
- 3 Mason Jars (1 for each snowflake)
- Pipe Cleaners
- Clothes Pins



Instructions

Make the Saltwater

- Prepare by making the saltwater in advance. You will need to heat about 3 cups of water per mason jar - so a total of about 9 cups of water (tip: fill the jar and dump it into a pot).
- When the water boils, start adding the salt. Keep pouring it in until crystals start to form on the surface of the water. It will take almost the entire container of salt for three snowflakes.
- Let the water cool - move on to the next step!

Create Your Snowflake Design

- While the water is cooling, design your own snowflakes from the pipe cleaners. Make sure the snowflakes can fit easily through the mouth of each jar.
- When the snowflakes are designed, attach a pipe cleaner to the top of each snowflake so you can suspend it in the mason jar.

Let Your Snowflake Crystalize

- Suspend the snowflakes in the saltwater using a clothespin to hold them in place. Let the snowflakes sit in a sunny window for 2-3 days.
- After 2-3 days, remove your snowflakes and let them dry. Your salt crystal snowflakes are ready! Hang them from a window or just admire their beautiful designs! You can even try inspecting the snowflakes with a magnifying glass to examine the crystals up close!

Did you know...

A snowflake's shape is determined by the humidity and temperature when it is formed. Every snowflake has six sides and approximately 200 snow crystals. And...it is estimated that roughly half of the people in the world have never seen snow in person!