



Science Experiment: Crystal Suncatchers

Project: Arts & Crafts, Geology

Supplies:

- Epsom Salt
- Clear Recycled Plastic Lids- use the clearest you can find
- Water
- Empty Jar
- Bowl or glass measuring cup
- Fork
- Microwave (optional)
- Tray
- String
- Exacto/Pin

Time: 20 minutes; drying time: a few hours to overnight

What to Do:

1. You will be using a ratio of 1:1 water to Epsom Salt for this project. Add 1 cup of Epsom salt to an empty glass jar.
2. Add 1 cup of water to a microwave safe bowl. Heat the water in the microwave for 45 seconds. Alternatively use very hot tap water and skip the microwave.
3. Pour the water into the jar with the salt. Do this quickly so that the water is warm. Stir the salt and water for 1-2 minutes to dissolve the salt.
4. Place several plastic lids on a flat-bottomed tray in a sunny location where they can remain undisturbed.
5. Pour off some of the excess liquid from your jar into the recycled plastic lids. Use just enough to cover the bottom of the lid. **DON'T OVERFILL!**
6. Place your lids in sunny location. Depending on how much liquid has been added it will take a few hours or a day to start crystallizing. I know it will look like lids full of water at first but be patient!
7. When the liquid has completely evaporated your crystal sun catcher is ready! You will be able to see lovely crystal structures from both side of the lid.
8. **VERY** carefully poke a small hole in the edge of the lid and thread a piece of string through the hole. Tie in a knot and hang your sun catcher up!

Reflect:

1. What happens when you combine water and Epsom salt?
2. How is the sun involved in the crystal formation?
3. What does light look like through the suncatcher?

Apply:

1. Where else have you seen similar crystals?
2. How do these crystals differ from the crystals in the experiment?
3. How are these crystals similar to the crystals in the experiment?

Source: <http://babbleddabledo.com/science-kids-crystal-suncatcher-craft/>