

BORAX CRYSTAL SNOWFLAKE

Do real snowflakes melt too quickly? Grow a borax crystal snowflake, color it blue if you like, and enjoy the sparkle all year long.

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Difficulty: Moderate: parental supervision

Time Required: 1 day

Ingredients:

- String
- Wide mouth jar (pint)
- White pipe cleaners
- Borax (see tips)
- Pencil
- Boiling water
- Scissors
- Food coloring (optional)



DIRECTIONS

Borax Crystal Snowflake Recipe

1. Make the snowflake shape. Cut a pipe cleaner into three equal sections. Twist together to form a six-sided snowflake shape. The snowflake should fit inside the jar.
2. Fill the wide mouth pint jar with boiling water.
3. Add borax one tablespoon at a time to the boiling water, stirring to dissolve after each addition. 3 tablespoons borax per cup of water. It is okay if some undissolved borax settles to the bottom of the jar. Tint with food color if desired.
4. Hang the pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar while water is still very hot by tying one end of the string to a pipe cleaner arm so that the pencil rests on top of the jar and the snowflake is completely covered with liquid and hangs freely (not touching the bottom of the jar).
5. Allow the jar to sit in an undisturbed location overnight.

Tips

- Borax is available at grocery stores in the laundry soap section, such as 20 Mule Team Borax Laundry Booster. Do not use Boraxo soap.
- The pipe cleaners can be made into any shape.
- If you can't find borax, you can use sugar or salt (may take longer to grow the crystals, so be patient). Add sugar or salt to the boiling water until it stops dissolving. Ideally, you want no crystals at the bottom of the jar.
- Borax will react with water in air to form a white layer. Store the snowflakes in a sealed container with a desiccant.

