

Salt Crystal Star Ornament

Make a salt crystal star to hang in a window or on a Christmas tree.

Materials Needed

heat-proof glass jar (*hint*: to transport the project, use a jar with a tight fitting lid)

1-2 pipe cleaners

borax or table salt

pencil

thread

gold or silver metallic ribbon for hanging ornament

warm or hot water (*optional*: microwave to heat crystal solution)



Directions

1. Make a saturated salt solution by dissolving borax or table salt in warm to hot water. Continue adding salt until it stops dissolving. (Hot water can hold more salt than cold water. Using hot water speeds up crystal formation.) Put the solution into a heat-proof glass jar.
2. Bend a pipe cleaner into a star shape. You will need to make 10 evenly-spaced sections, and one shorter section to fasten it together. (For larger stars, use more than one pipe cleaner and attach.)
3. Tie a loop of thread to one of the points of the star. Insert a pencil in the loop. Place the pencil on top of the mouth of the jar so the star hangs down in the solution. It should not touch the bottom.
4. Cover the top. Leave the pipe cleaner in the salt solution overnight or longer. Check to see how the crystals are growing. When the crystals are big enough, take the ornament out of the solution and hang up to dry.
5. When the ornament is dry, put a piece of gold or silver ribbon on it. Hang in a window or on a Christmas tree.