



RANDOM ACTS OF SCIENCENESS

Lesson: Salt Crystals

CURRICULUM REFERENCE: Properties of Liquids and Solids

LESSON OBJECTIVE

Watch how the natural process of crystallization works.

THE SCIENCE BEHIND

Hot water has more energy in it, which allows it to absorb more of the salt you mix in. This means that if the water is hot, it will be able to hold all the salt. When the water cools, it makes conditions for the salt very unstable and the previously dissolved salt will clump together with any impurities in the water or with other salt crystals, forming your cool salt formations.

VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/ILUTYvPNie8>

FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

1. How do humans impact invasive species?
2. How can we better handle this issue?
3. Describe the roles and interactions of producers, consumers, and decomposers within an ecosystem.



LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Assess the ways in which liquids and solids in the home are used, stored, and disposed of in terms of the effect on personal safety and the health of the environment, and suggest responsible actions to replace inappropriate practices.
- Investigate the properties of liquids and solids.
- Use technological problem-solving skills and knowledge acquired from previous investigations to design, build, and test a structure that involves interactions between liquids and solids.



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MATERIALS (PER PERSON)

- Table salt / Epsom salt
- Glass cup
- Pencil
- Water
- String
- Metal nut

INSTRUCTIONS

1. In 2 cups of boiling water, keep mixing in salt at a slow pace and to make sure it dissolves. Continue adding salt until it will no longer dissolve. This can take up to 5 cups of salt.
2. Take a pencil and tie a string the length of the jar around the middle. Tie the other end of the string around the metal nut.
3. Now that the salt is dissolved in the water, add it into the glass cup.
4. Watch it as the crystals grow (NOTE: this takes a day or two to see visible results).



VIDEO: <https://youtu.be/GMWazEvODj4>