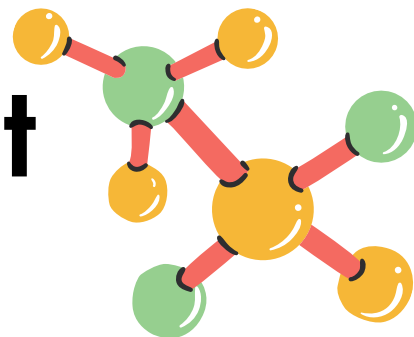


Science Experiment

Salt Crystals



In this experiment, you will be able to grow your own crystals!

Because of their certain structural characteristic, you can actually grow crystals! Well, not 'grow' like you or a flower grows. It's better to say you can build crystals, more like how you would build something with Legos.

When the molecules of the to-be crystals (called solute) are bumping around each other in a liquid (called solvent) they like to stick together. There are other forces in the solution that cause them to pull back apart but once in a while you get two molecules that hang on just long enough to attract another molecule and then another, and another, until a crystal structure starts to form. The more solute in the solvent, the faster your crystal will come together.

This process of building crystals is called nucleation.



You Will Need...

- A cup or a small bowl
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of Epsom salt (magnesium sulphate)
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of hot tap water
- A single drop of food colouring, (Optional)



Directions:

- Add your ingredients to your cup (or bowl).
- Stir the ingredients until the salt is dissolved.
- Put you cup or bowl in the fridge, leaving it there for at least 3 hours.
- After this, you will see needle like crystals have formed at the bottom of your cup or bowl. You can carefully scoop the crystals out of the bottom to get a better look.

Congratulations! You have made your own crystals!

