



SCIENCE PROJECT

Paper Snowflake Crystal Ornament

Use common household items—and common chemistry principles—to grow a Borax crystal snowflake ornament.

What You Need:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Filter paper (or coffee filters) | <input type="checkbox"/> Stirring rod or skewer |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Borax (sodium tetraborate) | <input type="checkbox"/> Scissors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Water | <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing line or ribbon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Glass measuring cup or 600 ml beaker | <input type="checkbox"/> Petri dish or deep plate |

What To Do:

1. Make a supersaturated solution of Borax and water by having an adult help you. Use the microwave to heat about 200 ml of water until boiling. Use caution when removing the glass from the microwave, because it will be hot! Mix in teaspoons of Borax until no more will dissolve. Allow the solution to cool.
2. If you're using a petri dish, use it as a template to cut your filter paper (or coffee filter) down to size so it will fit inside. Then fold the paper in half 2-3 times and snip the edges thinking about where the cuts will appear when you unfold it. You may want to practice on scratch paper first and figure out where to cut to come up with the best snowflake design.
3. Unfold your snowflake and place it in the petri dish (or on the plate) and carefully pour the saturated solution over the snowflake, making sure it's completely immersed.
4. Let the snowflake sit in the solution for an hour or longer until it is covered in crystals. Pour off the solution and use a butter knife to carefully remove the snowflake.
5. Place your crystal snowflakes on paper towels to dry. You may need to use a toothpick to knock crystals out of the snowflake's holes.
6. Once it is dry, feed fishing line or string through the snowflake and hang your ornament on your tree. Or if it's a gift, wrap it up for Christmas!

Note: Borax can be irritating to skin, so make sure you wash your hands after doing this project.

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