

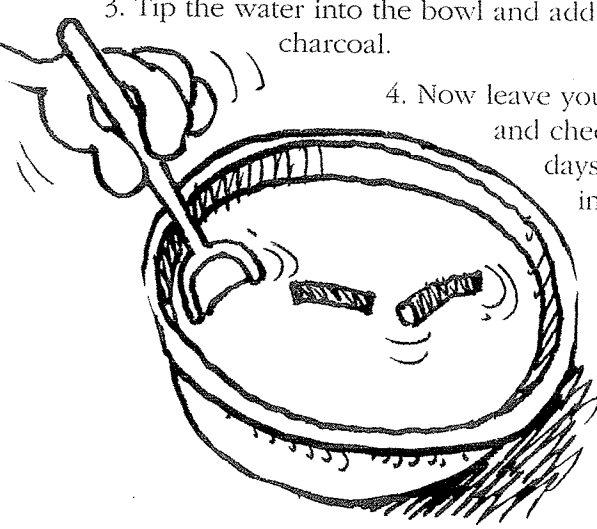
207 Dishing up the Crystals



See how crystals are formed.

STEPS

1. Warm two or three cups of water in the pan.
2. Stir the Epsom salts into the water until no more will dissolve.
3. Tip the water into the bowl and add the two pieces of charcoal.
4. Now leave your bowl in a safe place and check it over the next five days. Have crystals formed in your dish?
5. This experiment could be repeated using alum or copper sulphate (which is poisonous, so wash your hands). You will see differently shaped crystals form.



Materials

- pan
- 1 lb of Epsom salts
- bowl
- 2 pieces of charcoal
- spoon
- warm water

Did You Know?

Gems get their color from the minerals from which they are formed. Out of all the minerals in the world there are only a few that produce the beautiful colors of gems.



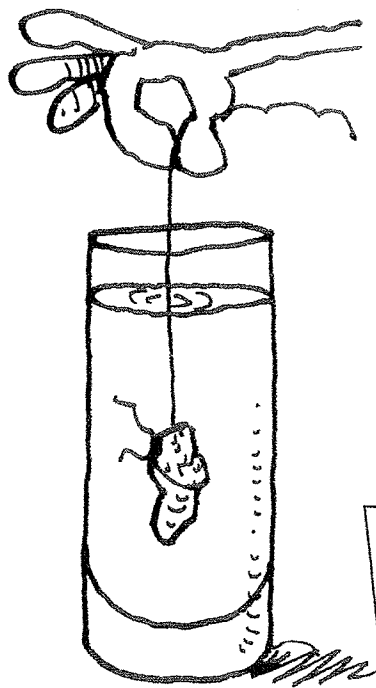
208 Crystal on a String



You can grow a crystal on a string.

STEPS

1. Warm the water in the pan on a low heat. (You might need help with this.)
2. Add salt, alum, or sugar to the water until no more will dissolve.
3. Leave this to cool so the crystals will form.
4. Take out the largest crystal and add as much salt to the solution as the crystal displaced.
5. Heat the solution again until the salt dissolves.
6. Cool this solution and pour it into a narrow glass.
7. Tie the thread around the crystal and place it in the solution. Leave. What do you notice after a number of days?



Materials

- salt (you can also use alum or sugar)
- pan
- narrow glass
- string about 12 in long
- water
- stove

Did You Know?

The study of caves is called speleology.

