

Crystal Cane

This experiment is awesome fun and a great way to learn about crystals too. It's time to make ourselves a Crystal Cane.

What do I need:

- Borax
- Pint of water
- Pipe cleaner
- Scissors
- Stick
- Sting

How do I do it?

STEP 1 - To make sure our Crystal Canes don't get stuck to the side of the glass the first step is to get an adult to help cut our pipe cleaner in half.

WARNING: Never drink Borax. Make sure to label it properly.

STEP 2 - Get an adult to help out with filling your pint glass with some very warm water.

STEP 3 - Add a table spoon of borax at a time and stir it in. Keep going until you can't dissolve anymore and there is a white layer at the bottom of the glass.

STEP 4 - Tie a piece of string around your pipe cleaner cane and your stick.

STEP 5 - Lower our pipe cleaner cane into you glass making sure it doesn't touch the bottom or the sides.

STEP 6 - Leave overnight for your Crystal Cane to form!

What's going on?

When you mix your borax with your warm water so that some remains undissolved you maximised the amount of borax that the water can hold. As the water begins to cool the amount of borax your water can 'hold' starts to come down.

Your borax is 'looking' for somewhere to go. Your pipe cleaner cane is kind of rough and offers the perfect place for your borax to settle (as opposed to the smooth sides of your glass).

More Fun Please - Experiment like a real scientist!

- How does the temperature of the water affect the outcome of this experiment?
- Does this experiment work with any other type of sweets?

