



www.sciencebob.com

Make your own Rock candy!



You can print these instructions out by choosing "PRINT" from your browser.

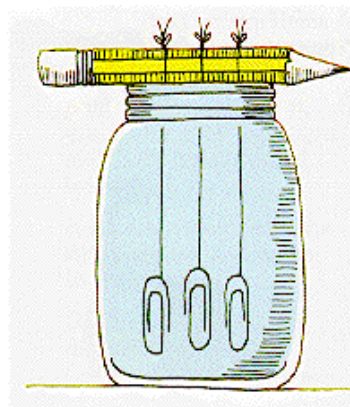
**THIS EXPERIMENT REQUIRES ADULT HELP
IT DEALS WITH VERY HOT LIQUIDS
BE SMART AND BE SAFE - ONLY DO THIS WITH ADULT HELP**

You will need

- 15cm piece of string
- A pencil
- A paper clip (or large plastic bead)
- 1 cup of water
- 2 cups of sugar
- A glass jar

What to do

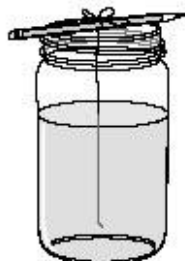
1. Tie the 15 cm piece of string to the middle of the pencil.
2. Tie the paper clip (or bead) onto the end of the string.
3. Put the pencil across the top of a jar so that the string hangs down the middle of the jar. If it hangs down too far, roll the string around the pencil until the string is not touching the sides or bottom of the jar. The string will act as a seed for the crystal. Any type of jar will do, but canning jars, pint size are especially nice, they will endure the hot temperatures. Tall skinny olive jars are also nice because they don't use up so much of the liquid.
4. Now that the string and pencil are ready remove them from the jar and put them aside
5. Get a helpful adult!
6. Pour the water into a pan and bring it to boil.
7. Pour about 1/4 cup of sugar into the boiling water, stirring until it dissolves.
8. Keep adding more and more sugar, each time stirring it until it dissolves, until no more will dissolve. This will take time and patience and it will take longer for the sugar to dissolve each time. Be sure you don't give up too soon.
9. Have your friendly ADULT carefully pour the hot sugar solution into the jars to the top. Then submerge the paper clip and string into the sugar solution. Be sure the string hangs down in the middle of the jar.
10. Allow the jar to cool and put it someplace where it will not be disturbed.



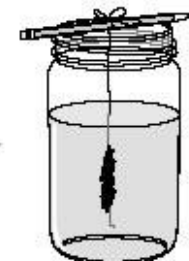
Now just wait. The sugar crystals will grow for the next few weeks. When you mixed the water and sugar you made a **SUPER SATURATED SOLUTION**. This means that the water could only hold the sugar if both were very hot. As the water cools the sugar "comes out" of the solution back into sugar crystals on your string. The string and paper clip act as a "seed" that they start to grow on. With some luck and patience you will have a tasty scientific treat! Enjoy!
-Science Bob



Sugar dissolved
in hot water



String tied to a pencil and
suspended in solution



1 week later