

Rock Candy Lab

Purpose: To use a supersaturated solution to grow crystals.

Materials:

- Clean wooden skewer or wooden chopstick
- Clothespin
- 1 cup of water
- 2 – 3 cups of sugar
- A tall narrow glass or jar
- Food coloring (optional)

Procedure:

1. Clip the wooden skewer to the clothespin so that it hangs down the inside of the glass jar and is not touching the bottom. Leave about 1 inch of space between the bottom of the glass and the skewer.
2. Remove the skewer and clothes and set aside
3. Pour the water into a pan and bring to a boil. Add food coloring now if you like.
4. Pour about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar into the boiling water and stir until it dissolves.
5. Continue to add sugar a little at a time until no more will dissolve. Make sure between each scoop you let the sugar completely dissolve until you add more.
6. Remove from heat and allow it to cool for about 20 minutes.
7. While the solution is cooling dip half the skewer in the sugar solution and then roll it in dry sugar. Set aside and allow to completely cool.
8. After 20 minutes pour the sugar solution into the jar carefully. Leave about an inch of space at the top of the glass.
9. Place the skewer inside the jar. You want the part of the skewer you rolled in sugar to go into the sugar solution.
10. Set the glass or jar aside and wait. It will take 3 – 7 days for the crystals to grow. Leave the glass undisturbed until you are ready to remove the skewer.
11. Enjoy!

Data:

- Draw two pictures. One at around day 1 or 2 of waiting and the second one when you remove the crystals from the solution.

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Why did you need to roll the skewer in sugar before you placed it in the sugar solution? _____

If you added color, did the color transfer to the candy? _____

Why did the sugar leave the solution and attach to the skewer? _____

Was your rock candy good? _____

Did you share with anyone? _____

What did you like/dislike about this experiment? _____

Be sure to take a picture of yourself doing the experiment and either email it to me at Juliana.morgan@SAUSD.US or show it to me when you turn in your lab report.