



Homemade Science: Rock Crystals

Method:

1. With an adult's help heat the water in a saucepan until it boils.
2. Stir in 1/3 of the sugar until it dissolves, repeat with the next 1/3 and again with the final 1/3.
3. Make sure it is all dissolved and leave for 10-20 mins to cool
4. Pour into the jar and cover with a square of baking paper
5. Dip your string into the syrup and leave to dry completely
6. Tie one end of your string around the paperclip (this is a weight to hold your string down in the syrup)
7. Tie the other end around the middle of your pencil. Make a hole in the middle of your baking paper and drop the string into the syrup.
8. Leave for 4-7 days in a quiet and cool place and you will see your crystals growing on the string.

You will need:

A small glass jar
1/2 cup of water
1 1/4 cup of sugar
A pencil
A paperclip or screw
A 10cm piece of string



Image by PublicDomainPictures from Pixabay



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So what's the science?

First you DISSOLVE the solid sugar into water. Then as the water in the syrup EVAPORATES the sugar that's left behind CRYSTALLISES back into a solid and looks like it's growing on the string.

Find out more...

Other examples of substances being oxidised are:

Ice and Snowflakes

Honey

Salt

Why don't you see what other examples you can find out about? Use website like BBC Bitesize or How Stuff Works.

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Homemade Science: Make a Sundial

You will need:

A Stick
12 Stones or A Chalk
A lump of playdough (if you don't have grass to put your stick into)

Method:

1. Find a sunny spot in your garden or yard.
2. Put your stick in the ground (or use the playdough to fix it to a hard surface).
3. During the day on each hour o'clock place a stone or make a chalk mark where the shadow of the stick falls .
4. This may take you a few days to get right.
5. You should then be able to roughly tell the time from your sundial!



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So what's the science?

As the Earth ROTATES it looks like the sun is moving through the sky from East to West. When you have marked out your hour markers you can tell the time. The position of the shadow of the stick helps you know what time it is because you know where the shadow should be for each hour of the day so you can work out the time it is now.

Find out more...

Sundials were invented by the Egyptians and the Babylonians many many years ago.

Why don't you see what else you can find out about them?

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Homemade Science: Invisible Ink

You will need:

Milk or Lemon Juice
A Cotton Bud
Paper
Hairdryer or Radiator or
someway to heat the
paper

Method:

1. Choose either milk or lemon juice and put a small amount into a cup. If using lemon juice mix with a bit of water.
2. Dip your cotton bud into the liquid and use to write your message on your paper.
3. Let it dry completely somewhere safe
4. Use a hairdryer or heat from a radiator or other source to heat the message. It should slowly appear on your paper!



Image by Fathromi Ramdlon from Pixabay



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So what's the science?

The Lemon Juice is OXIDISED

That's a process where a substance loses some tiny particles called electrons. In this experiment it causes the lemon juice to go brown.

Find out more...

Other examples of substances being oxidised are:

Rust

The inside of apples going brown when cut

Burning of fuels in fire

Why don't you see what other examples you can find out about? Use website like BBC Bitesize or How Stuff Works.

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Homemade Science: Toy Parachutes

You will need:

- A Paper Cup
- A Plastic Shopping Bag
- Some wool or string

Method:

1. Make four holes evenly spaced in the top of the paper cup
2. Cut a square out of the plastic bag and make four holes in each corner of the square.
3. Tie a piece of wool from each corner of the square to each corner of the cup.
4. Drop your parachute from a height (safely!) and watch it float to the ground.
5. Experiment with putting things (e.g. a lego person) into your cup to see what it can carry!



Image by Lynn Greyling from Pixabay



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So what's the science?

Parachutes work because of AIR RESISTANCE. Air is made up of lots of moving molecules. As the parachute falls through the air it has to push air molecules out of the way. The bigger and more open the parachute the more air resistance so the slower it should fall.

Find out more...

Other examples of air resistance are:

Wind

Aeroplanes flying in the sky

When you ride a bicycle and the air pushes you back

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Homemade Science: Glitter Germs

Method:

You will need:

A Small amount of
Glitter
Hand lotion or vaseline
Paper Towel or tissue
Soap and Water

1. Put a small amount of lotion or vaseline into the palm of your hand and rub it all over
2. Add a few pinches of glitter and rub into your hands
3. Shake hands with someone and see how easily the glitter spreads
4. Try to rub off the glitter with a tissue or paper towel. Can you still see glitter on your hands?
5. Now wash your hands with Soap and Water for 20 seconds (singing Happy Birthday twice!)



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So what's the science?

Germs like Viruses and Bacteria are extremely small and can be TRANSMITTED (spread) from person to person really easily like the glitter on your hands. Just wiping with a tissue or towel doesn't get rid of them. We need to wash hands thoroughly with soap and water to reduce the spread of infection.

Find out more...

Take a look at the E-Bug Website at www.e-bug.eu for more information, activities and games.

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