



* Crystal Candy Canes * Family Activity - Science



CRYSTAL SCIENCE
CANDY CANES



Description:

Tis the season for candy canes everywhere! Why not try making crystal candy canes you can even hang up as Christmas tree ornament. This is a fun science experiment for kids where they can actually check out how crystals grow.

Materials:

- Borax {found in laundry detergent aisle}. You can also use it to make slime.
- Water
- Mason jars, a wide mouth is preferable.
- Pan, Spoon, Measuring Cup and Tablespoon
- Pipe Cleaners {Red, Green, White}
- Ribbon {Make into Ornaments!}

Instructions:

- To fill three small mason jars, use 6 cups of water and 18 tablespoons of borax.

STEP 1: MAKE PIPE CLEANER CANDY CANES

- Your best bet is to cut your pipe cleaners in half and make small candy canes! Twist different combinations of green, white, and red pipe cleaners together to make your candy canes.
- You will use the popsicle sticks to dangle the pipe cleaner candy canes in the mason jars. You don't want the candy cane to touch the sides or bottom. It will stick and grow crystals!

STEP 2: MAKE THE BORAX SOLUTION

- Boil your water, turn off the heat, add borax, and stir to mix as it won't completely dissolve. Pour into jars and place in an area where they won't get knocked around.



STEP 3: WAIT PATIENTLY

- In a few hours you will see crystals beginning to grow (all about suspension science!) and by the next morning (18-24hours), your crystal candy canes will be covered in cool-looking crystals. The crystals are quite hardy!

STEP 4: LET THE CRYSTALS DRY

- Take them out and place them on paper towels to dry a bit. They are neither fragile nor overly sturdy, but my son can handle them with 6-year-old hands and they hold up nicely. Grab a magnifying glass to check out your crystal candy canes!



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