



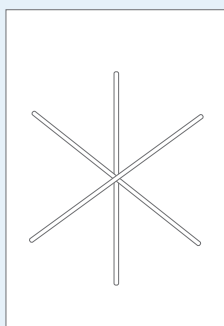
2: kitchen snowflakes

Have you ever really looked at snow up close? A handful of snow is made up of thousands of tiny snowflakes. Each snowflake is made up of as many as 200 tiny ice crystals — frozen water that has formed around tiny bits of dirt. So snowflakes are really soil particles wearing a pretty coat of ice! Most snow crystals have 6 sides or points, but each one looks a little bit different.

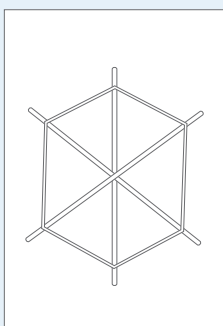
Here's a simple way to make a "snowflake crystal" right in your kitchen, any time of year.

Supplies needed:

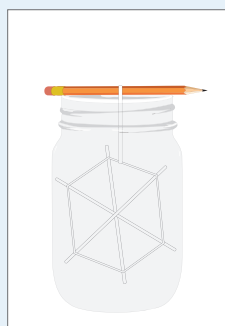
- >> Wide-mouthed jar
- >> 3 white pipe cleaners
- >> String
- >> Scissors
- >> Pencil
- >> Boiling water (have an adult do this part)
- >> Spoon
- >> Borax (buy **20 Mule Team Borax Laundry Booster** at the grocery store in the laundry detergent section.)



Make 6-pointed shape with pipe cleaners



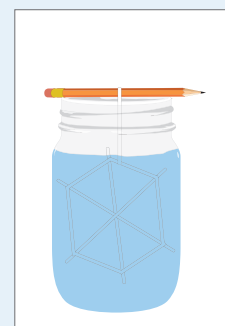
Wrap string around the pipe cleaners



Be sure the "snowflake" fits in the jar



Mix Borax and hot water



Hang snowflake in water overnight

1. Make a giant snowflake frame from 3 white pipe cleaners and string. Twist the 3 pipe cleaners together in the center to make a 6-sided, spiky figure. Be sure the pipe cleaners can fit inside the wide-mouthed jar.
2. Tie the string around the pipe cleaners to look like a snowflake shape. Cut off the extra string.
3. Tie a few inches of string to one of the pipe cleaners. Tie the other end of the string to a pencil, so that the snowflake will hang from the pencil and dangle inside the jar. Take the snowflake out of the jar.
4. Pour boiling water into the jar (have an adult do this part) and gradually add 3 tablespoons of Borax to the hot water in the jar. You will see undissolved Borax at the bottom of the jar.
5. Hang the snowflake in the jar and wait at least overnight. In the morning, your snowflake will be covered with beautiful crystals!

To learn more about snowflakes, read the true story of Snowflake Bentley who devoted his life to taking beautiful photographs of snowflake crystals: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0547248296/readingrocket-20>

And you can explore even more at the Snowflake Bentley website: <http://snowflakebentley.com/>