



Rock Candy

Hey guys! Ready for another fun project? This one takes a bit of time and patience, but the end result is so cool, it'll be worth it. Only a few supplies are required:

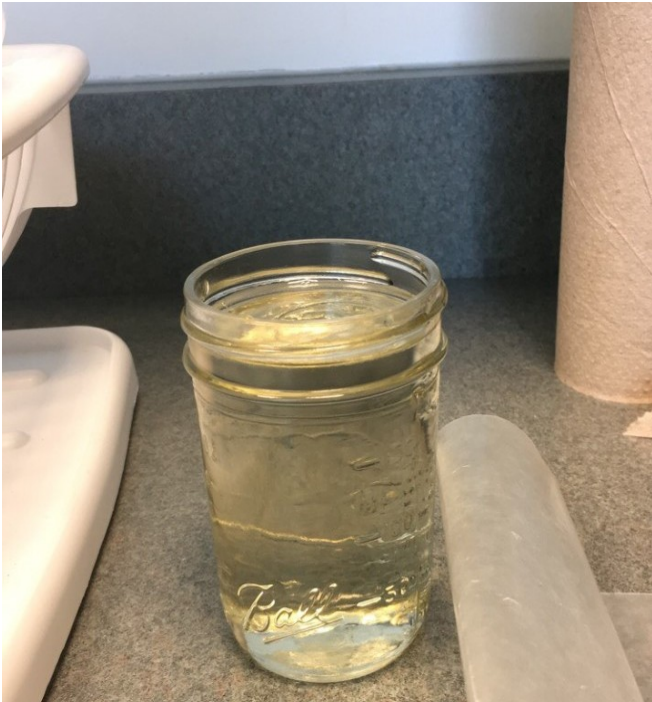
- Water**
- Sugar**
- String or popsicle stick**
- A pencil**
- Clean glass or jar**
- Wax or parchment paper**
- Food coloring (optional)**



Let's get started!

Step 1

Begin by measuring out one cup of granulated sugar in a clean jar or glass. Mix in 1/3 cup of room temperature water. Because the sugar is so thick, it won't completely mix.



Step 2

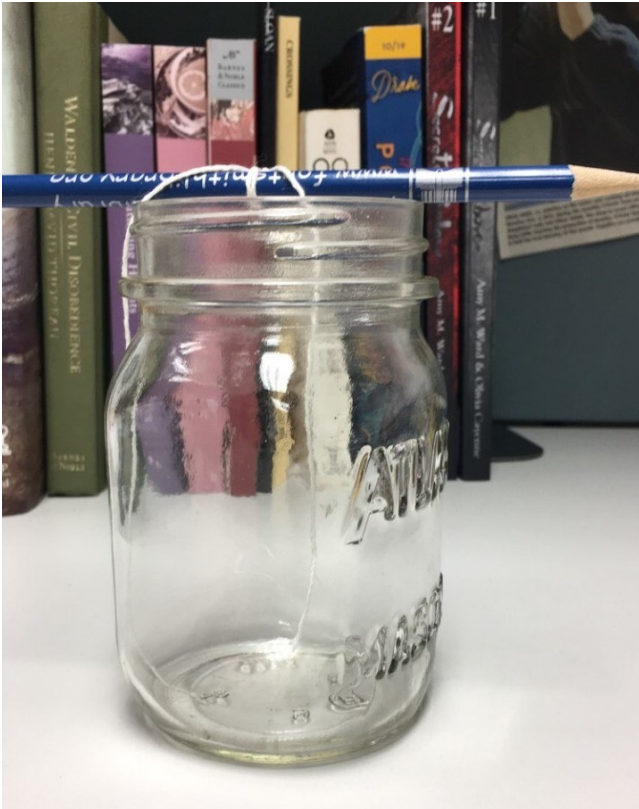
Put the mixture in the microwave for two minutes, or until boiling (ask an adult for help with this!). Remove from microwave and stir until completely blended. Add food coloring if you'd like. This can also be done on a stovetop. Be careful! The glass will be **HOT.**



Step 3

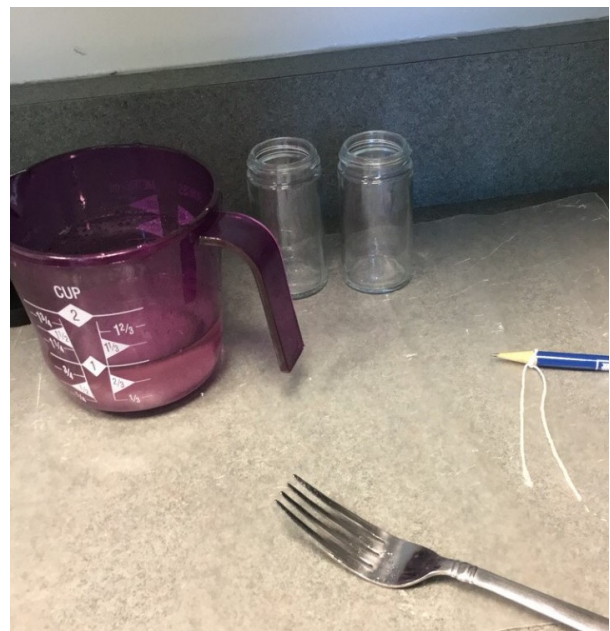
Tie a string around a pencil and cut it about 2/3 the length of the container (you don't want the string touching the bottom of the glass). Dip the string into the sugar water until it soaks through, then let it dry on a sheet of wax paper. Let the sugar water cool to room temperature.

Step 4



Once the sugar water is cooled, place the string back inside, balancing the pencil on the rim of the jar. Because the mixture is so thick, you may need to use a spoon to help get the string submerged.

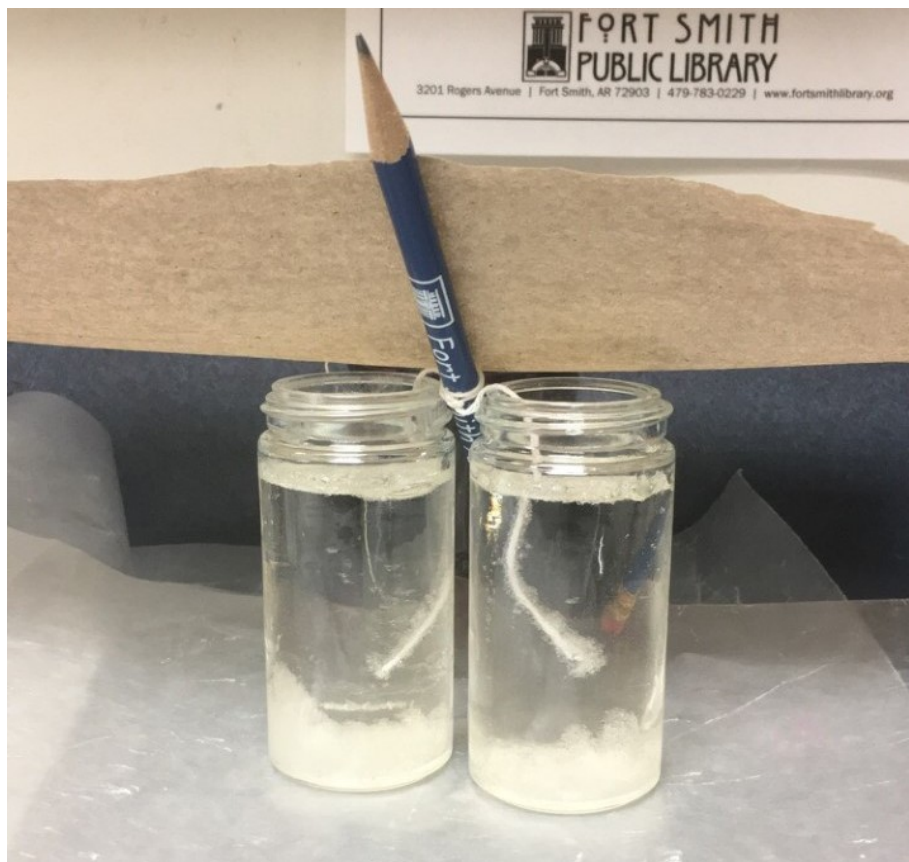
These can be done in jars of various sizes.



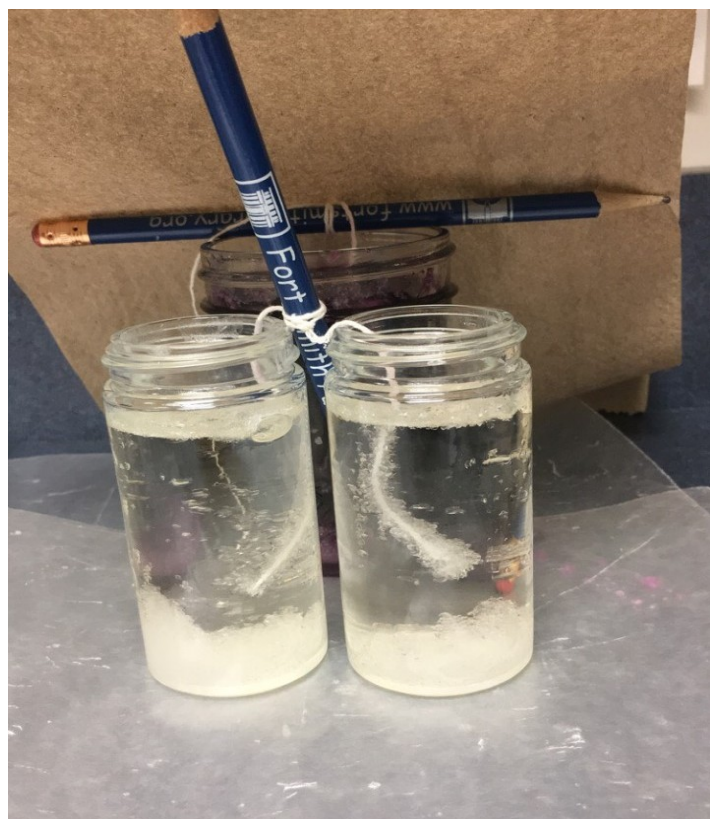
Step 5

Here's where you'll need to be patient! Place a paper towel over the opening of the jar and let it sit for one week. The hard part is not messing with the string while you wait! Check it every day, and see what happens!

Crystals after 1 day



Crystals after 3 days



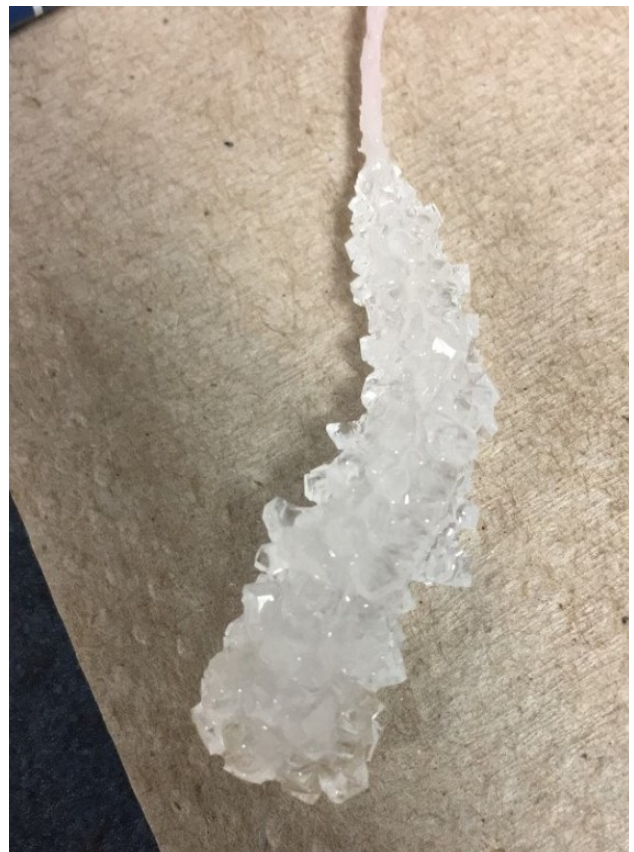
See the growth?

Crystals after 5 days



As long as your crystals have been covered, they are safe to eat!

Crystals after 7 days





Here are **purple** crystals!
If you add too much food coloring, the crystals will be hard to see.



You can also make geodes!



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