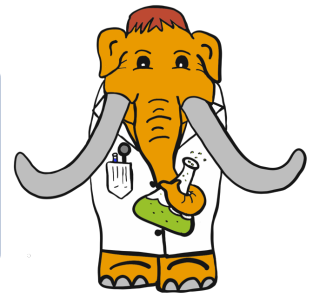


Science Saturday @ Home

Looking at Salt Crystals



Gathering Supplies:

A Small Plate and bowl
1 Cup 1 Tablespoon
Salt Food Coloring
Hot Water
Heavy Paper or Cardboard
Scissors

How To Steps:

Dissolve and then regrow salt crystals!

This activity uses hot or boiling water so get a household adult to help.

1. Take a small bowl and have an adult add about 1 cup of boiling or very hot water.
2. Then add 2 Tablespoons of salt (any type works). Stir the salt until it disappears. Then add another tablespoon of salt and stir. You want to make a super saturated solution. This means that the water has dissolved as much salt as it can hold and you should still see some salt in the bottom of the bowl even after stirring for a few minutes.
3. Add a food coloring of your choice and stir into the salt water solution.
4. Cut out a shape from the cardboard or thick paper and soak it in the salt water for a few minutes.
5. Then take the piece out and place it on a flat surface. Outside in the hot sun works well.
6. Check it after it dries and see if you can find tiny shiny salt crystals covering it.
7. You can then take the rest of the colored salt water and pour it into a shallow bowl or plate. Then put the plate outside in the sun. Check on it after about 15 minutes. Do you see any crystals growing on the edges of the plate. Keep checking as the water evaporates and leaves the salt crystals behind.

Max Exploring Salt Crystals



Did You Know?

Salt comes in many different forms but there are two main types of salt. Sea salt and rock, or mineral salt.

Rock salts are mined from underground, with salt mines located around the world. The largest salt mine is Goderich Salt Mine in Ontario, Canada. It is located 1,800 feet under Lake Huron. Himalayan salt comes from a mine in Pakistan, the Khewra Salt Mine. Himalayan salt contains a very small amount of iron oxide which gives it a unique pink color.

Sea salt is harvested from evaporated ocean water. Often the ocean water is pumped into shallow pools where the sun is used to evaporate the water, leaving the salt to be collected.

Both processes use forms of evaporation. The table salt that you have at home was probably from a salt mine. The salt is highly processed into its tiny crystal form to remove any unwanted minerals.