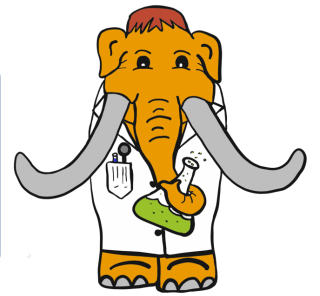


# Science Saturday @ Home

## Watercolor Geodes



### Gathering Supplies:

Salt  
Watercolors and Watercolor Paper  
Paintbrush  
Cup of Water  
Brown Crayons

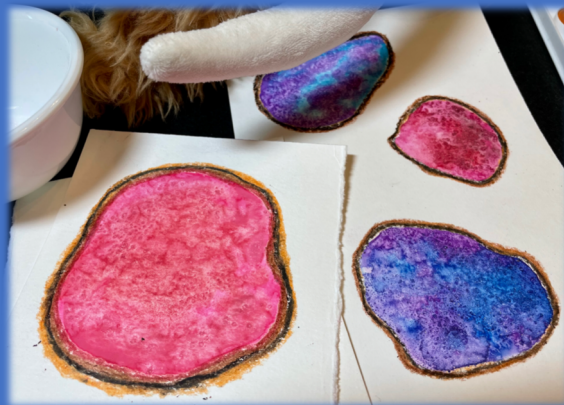
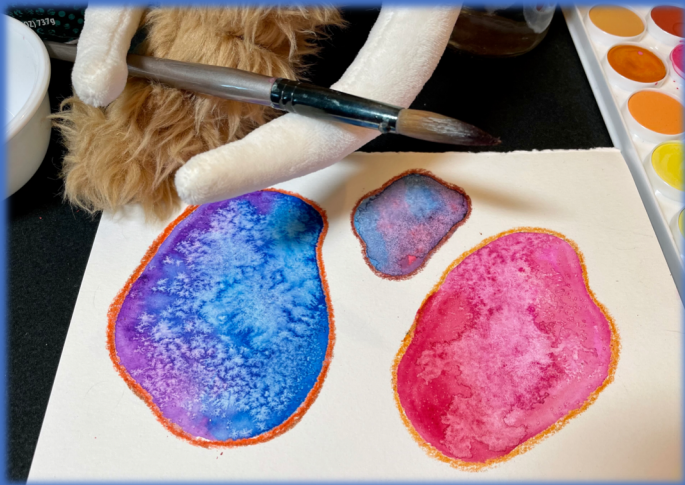
### How To Steps:

Explore a property of salt while making a fun art project!

#### Watercolor Geodes

1. Take a brown crayon, any shade of brown or tan works, and draw a uneven circle. Geodes in nature are not perfectly round! You can use different colors of brown to make the outer edge of your geodes thicker.
2. Pick 2 or 3 different watercolors you want to use and get them wet so they are ready for you to use.
3. Paint the inside of your geode with a very wet brush. You can let the colors mix together as you add them to your paper.
4. While the paint is still wet sprinkle a little bit of salt on it and let it dry.
5. Once the watercolor paint is dry take your finger and gently rub the salt off. If you don't get all the salt off that's okay, it adds a crystal look to your art.
6. What different types of designs does the salt make? Try making a couple different geodes and see if the amount of water in your paint makes a different texture with the salt? Does using a different type of salt, or a coarser salt make a difference?

# Max Using Salt to Make Watercolor Geodes



## Did You Know?

Salt, or Sodium Chloride, has the chemical formula of NaCl. Na for Sodium and Cl for Chlorine. Most people have salt in their kitchen that they use for cooking.

One of the interesting things about salt is that it is hygroscopic. What does hygroscopic mean? It means that salt can absorb liquid water and water vapor from the air. This is why an old salt shaker that has been sitting out on a counter may have very clumpy hard salt stuck in the bottom of it. The fine salt crystals in table salt absorb moisture in the air causing the crystals to stick together.

Salt's ability to absorb moisture means that it is very important in the preservation of foods. Especially with preserving meats before people had access to refrigeration! Salt pulls moisture out of the food so that mold and bacteria won't spoil it. Mold and bacteria need moisture to survive.

You can see this effect at work in our Watercolor Geodes too! When you sprinkle salt on to the wet paint the salt will soak up some of the water in the paint making different designs or textures on the paper.

