

Crystal Candy Rocks

Introduction: Have you ever wanted to make your own candy at home? We are going to make sugar rock candy by creating a hot sugar water solution that will eventually form sugar crystals. Watch over several days as the crystals form before your eyes.

Approximate Time: 35 minutes to set up, 3-7 days for the crystals to form, 15 minutes to remove candy from jar

Materials:

- A wooden skewer or chopstick
- A clothespin
- A tall, narrow glass or jar
- Saucepan
- Heat-safe stirring spoon
- 1 cup of water
- 2-3 cups of sugar
- A dull knife
- Optional: food coloring



Procedure:

1. Inside the jar, hang the wooden skewer about an inch above the bottom of the jar by clipping it to the clothespin, then remove both and set them aside.
2. Have an adult pour the water into a pan and boil it.
3. Pour about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of sugar into the water, then stir it until it dissolves. Repeat this, until no more sugar will dissolve. This step will likely take some time and each time more sugar is added it will take a longer time for the sugar to dissolve.
4. Then, allow the water to cool off for at least twenty minutes.
5. Have an adult pour the water into the jar.
6. Put the skewer back into the jar, submerging it in the water. The skewer should be hanging straight down the middle, and it should not be touching the sides of the jar.
7. Move the jar to a place it will not be disturbed.
8. Wait, and over the next three to seven days the crystals will grow.
9. When the rock candy had grown to your liking, use a dull knife to break the sugar surface around the skewer.
10. Pour out the excess liquid.
11. If the rock candy is stuck to the bottom of the jar, run hot water along the bottom of the jar until you can remove the rock candy.

Tips & Tricks:

- To jump start the growth of the crystals, you can dip half the skewer in the sugar water while it is cooling, then roll it in some sugar. Allow the skewer to completely cool before putting it back inside the jar.
- Add food coloring to the water to create colored crystals.