PLAY at home

HOW-TO DIY: SALT CRYSTAL LEAVES!

Enjoy this festive & fun STEM activity right at home!

Ingredients You’ll Need:
• 1 Box of Salt
• Pipe cleaners - or actual colorful fall leaves from outside!
• Clothespins
• Yarn
• Mason Jars

PLAY TIP:
If you can’t find any colorful leaves outside, no worries! Shape your pipe cleaners into your very own leaf.

EXPERIMENT:
Make sure to have a long stem on each leaf you create (or find!) so you are able to suspend the leaf inside the mason jar using a clothespin.

Step 1: In a medium pot, heat up 2 ½ cups of water per mason jar. (3 jars = about six cups!)
Step 2: Bring the water to a boil, then slowly add the entire box of salt. The experiment won’t work properly without enough salt in the water!
Step 3: Stir the salt into the mixture until it will no longer dissolve - you’ll likely see grains of salt at the bottom of your pot.
Step 4: Port the hot salt water into each mason jars.
Step 5: Place one leaf inside each jar using a clothespin, ensuring they are suspended in the center of the jar and are not touching the sides or bottom of the jar.
Step 6: Set your jars in a sunny window, and leave them there for at least two days. The longer you leave them, the better!

The Science Behind It:
As the water in the mason jars evaporates, the salt crystals cling to one another, forming large squares of salt, similar to frost found in nature!
Observe your salt crystal leaves with magnifying glasses for an up-close look at the science!

Don’t forget to share your own experiments and results with us @portdiscovery #portdiscovery!