

# Activity Title: Activity Title: Making Crystals

**Theme:** Rocks, Stones and Minerals

**Month:** March

**Aim:** Learning about super saturated solutions; how salt crystals form. This activity promotes collaborative work, the skill of learning to learn, observation and analysis.

**Resources/Materials needed:** Table salt – sodium chloride; Distilled Water; A clean, clear glass container – a jam jar is perfect; String; A spoon for stirring.

**Subject**      **Science**  
**Activity**

- Step 1. Present to pupils different stones, rocks, minerals, crystals. You can also break them to see the inside
- Step 2. Organize with pupils “The stones museum”
- Step 3. Introduce pupils to the experiment (or Lab) with a brainstorming activity
- Step 4. Here is how the experiment works:
- Mix salt into almost boiling water until no more will dissolve (crystals start to appear at the bottom of the jar).
  - Pour the solution into your jar. (if you put a spoon into the jar, it will not break)
  - Suspend a string into the jar from the spoon laid across the top of it
  - Leave your jar in a place not to be reached by pupils and wait for your crystal to grow!
- Step 5. Once you have your crystals, here are some things to discuss:
- What shape and colour are your crystals? In fact, if there are impurities in the salt or the water, the shape and colour of the crystals will change
  - If you try using different types of table salt – try iodized salt, un-iodized salt, sea salt, or even salt substitutes, can you see any difference in the appearance of the crystals?
  - Do the same using different types of water, such as tap water compared with distilled water. Can you see any difference in the appearance of the crystals?
- Step 6. Compare your crystals with other rocks stones and minerals, also using a digital microscope or a magnifying glass

These are the links for a short example of this activity:

<https://www.saltassociation.co.uk/education/properties-of-salt/grow-salt-crystal/>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9zoh-COQAQM>

<https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/how-to-grow-salt-crystals-easter-science/>