

SALT CRYSTAL SNOWFLAKES

Bring some winter wonderland inside your home

Introduction:

No matter how you celebrate the season, this craft is a great way to spend some family time getting into the holiday spirit! Even if there isn't snow on the ground outside you can always create some winter wonderland decorations to fill your home with cozy vibes.

Recommended Ages: 4-12

Materials for Crystal Snowflakes:

- Tray or Baking Sheet
- Construction Paper and Scissors
- Measuring Cups/Spoons
- Table Salt
- Water
- Paper Towels

Salt Crystal Snowflakes:

First things first... gather all the supplies and find a place you can let your snowflakes rest undisturbed. The drying process can take a few days and so you want to use a tray that you won't miss and a spot where it will be out of the way.

Next, make some paper snowflakes! Start by cutting out a circle and then fold the circle in half over and over until you have a little sliver left. This can be hard for little ones to cut through and so together you will want to cut little shapes along the straight edge before unfolding it and admiring your unique masterpiece!

Then, start with 1-2 cups of very hot water, depending on how many snowflakes you plan to make. Add salt to your water one tablespoon at a time until the solution is "saturated" and the salt no longer mixes into the water (the hotter the water the more salt you will be able to add).

Pour this water over your paper snowflakes on the tray, just until they are covered, and the waiting begins!

It may take a few days for the water to completely evaporate but when it is done you can hang these beauties near a window and watch the crystals shimmer. In the meantime, maybe head out for a winter hike with the scavenger hunt checklist below!

The chemistry: When the water evaporates the atoms in the salt (sodium and chloride) begin to bond to just each other, making the unique cube formations that will cover your snowflakes when fully dry.



Winter Scavenger Hunt

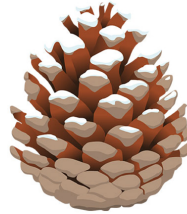
To Find



Twig



Pine Needle

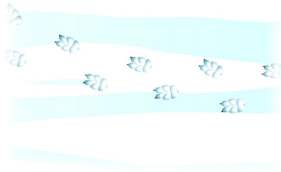


Pine Cone



Moss

To Look For



Animal Tracks



A Bird Flying



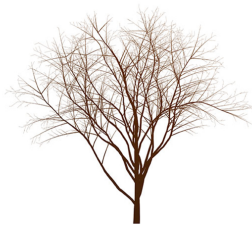
Clouds



Berries



A Frozen Puddle



A Tree That Has
Lost Its Leaves



An Evergreen
Tree



An Icicle

Winter Scavenger Hunt

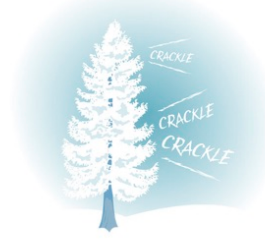
To Listen For



Birds Chirping



The Wind



A Frozen Tree
Crackling



Water Dripping
From A Branch

To Smell



Bark



Cedar



Snow



Pine

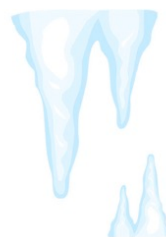
To Feel



Chilly Cheeks



Tree Bark



Ice



Snowflakes On
Your Face