Growing Snowflakes

Ready to grow your own snowflakes?

First, gather your supplies:
- 1 cup epsom salt
- 1 cup water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Heavy paper such as cardstock or watercolor paper
- Paint brush
- Scissors
- Hole punch

Next, make a snowflake shape out of paper. Draw one, cut one out, or print one off of the computer.

Now, make your crystals. With an adult’s help, heat the water in a cup in the microwave for exactly 45 seconds. Then pour the epsom salt in and mix until the crystals dissolve. If you’d like, you can also mix in a few drops of food coloring.
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Time to paint! After the solution is completely mixed, paint it onto your snowflake design. Let it dry slightly, and then add a second coat.

Grow your crystals. Place your snowflake flat in a cold spot such as the refrigerator or a porch on a cold day until it dries completely. Notice the crystals growing! The magnesium sulfate dissolved into the water, and as the solution cools, the crystals form.

Hang and enjoy! Cut out your snowflake, add a hole punch, tie on a ribbon, and you’ve got a new winter decoration!