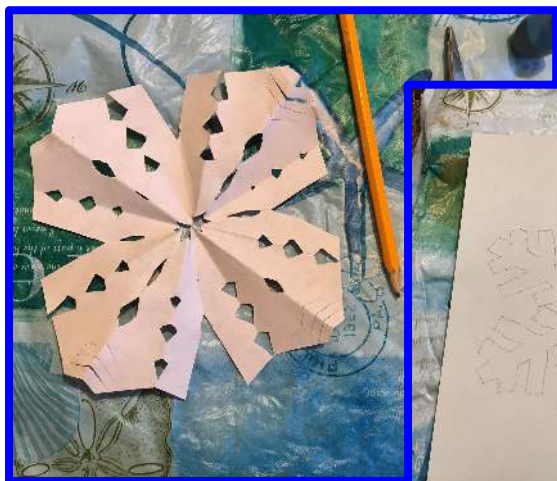


Growing Snowflakes

Ready to grow your own snowflakes?

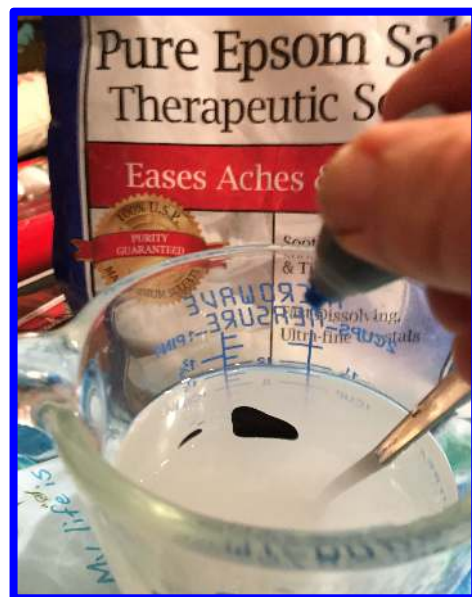
First, gather your supplies:

- 1 cup epsom salt
- 1 cup water
- Food coloring (optional)
- Heavy paper such as cardstock or watercolor paper
- Paint brush
- Scissors
- Hole punch

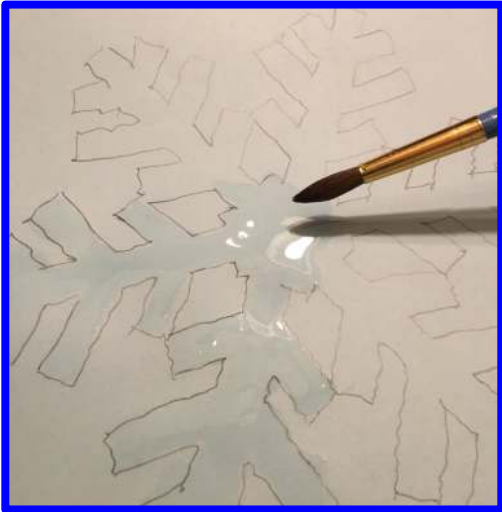


Next, make a snowflake shape out of paper. Draw one, cut one out, or print one off of the computer.

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.



Growing Snowflakes



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!