

## ROCK CANDY



### Tools & Supplies:

- 1 Cup Water
- 2 Cups Granulated Sugar
- Food Coloring (optional)
- Glass Jar (big enough to hold 3 cups)
- Medium Saucepan
- Paperclip or Small Bolt (weight bottom of string)
- Paper Towel
- Pencil
- Stirring Spoon
- String, 12" piece cotton or wool

### Instructions:

1. Tie paperclip to one end of the string.
2. Tie the other end of the string to the middle of the pencil so the paper clip just touches the bottom of the jar when the pencil is resting on the rim.
3. Add a few drops of food coloring to the bottom of the jar (optional).
4. Heat the water to boiling.
5. Slowly add sugar, a teaspoon at a time and stir until dissolved. Keep adding sugar until it starts to accumulate at the bottom of the container and won't dissolve with more stirring.
6. Pour the sugar solution into the jar. Avoid getting any undissolved sugar in the jar.
7. Keep dust out of the jar by placing a paper towel over the top.
8. Place the jar where you can watch it without disturbing it.
9. The crystals will form on the string in a few days.
10. When all the water has evaporated your rock candy is ready to eat.

### Helpful Hints:

1. Use a cotton or wool string. Crystals will not grow on a nylon line.
2. Don't use a fishing weight to hold your string, the lead from the weight is toxic.
3. If your string is too long, roll the pencil to shorten it.
4. Use a clear jar so you can see the crystal grow. A pint size canning jar works well.
5. Be sure the string hangs in the middle of the jar and doesn't touch the bottom or sides.