

Crystal Art

ISIS Neutron and Muon Source

Crystals come in many shapes and sizes, from the salt and sugar crystals we can easily find around the house, to the unusual hexagonal diamonds found in meteorites. But did you know you can grow your own crystals using ingredients you have at home? Follow the instructions below to create a picture made of crystals.



Sketch out the design you would like on black paper using white pencil.



Mix 2 cups of sugar into a cup of hot water until it has fully dissolved.

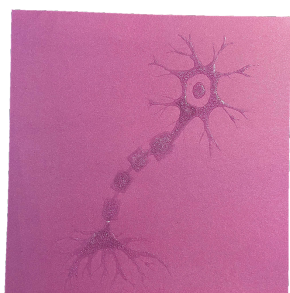


Dip your paintbrush into the crystal solution and paint your picture. The image will be invisible at first, so remember where you have already painted!

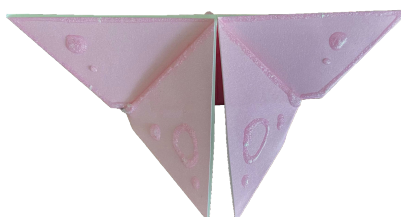


Leave your painting somewhere to dry and your picture will gradually appear! Depending on how thick your 'paint' is, it could appear over hours or days.

Here are some examples:



This is a neuron - a type of cell found throughout your whole body.



You could even try some crystal art on origami - this is a butterfly, with a pattern added to its wings.

Crystal research at ISIS

Crystallography is the study of the structure of crystals. Scientists at ISIS have looked at the crystal structure of ancient swords to discover hidden patterns, airplane wings before they enter flight, and meteorites to discover more about the mystery of our solar system's origins.

