

Caves & Crystals Experiment Tips

Read below for extra tips to help you complete your science experiments.



Grow Your Own Crystal

- Your crystals need the right environment to grow. The temperature in the air and water and the type of water used all can affect how your crystals will grow.
- Filtered water works best for crystals.
- Ask an adult to heat the water until it boils. Heat it in the microwave or on the stovetop to get it hot enough. It's very important to dissolve the powder as much as possible.
- If there is still a lot of powder, try adding a little more hot water to help it dissolve.
- Seeding is important. By saving some of your crystal powder to sprinkle on top, you'll give your crystals extra grip to grow on your gravel.



Stalactite on String

- In the first step, you're making what's called a saturated solution. A saturated solution is when a solute (in this case, the baking soda) is dissolved into a solvent (the hot water) until it can no longer dissolve, leaving undissolved solute (the baking soda) at the bottom of the solution.
- The liquid solution will travel down the length of the string and will drip. Avoid using a paper plate in case the liquid seeps through.
- Use a small plate so the solution has less length to travel. The space between the cups should be about 6-8 inches.



Sand Stalagmites

- Always remember you can add more water to the sand if it gets too dry, and if it gets too wet, leave it in the sun for several minutes. Alternatively, let the sand settle in the bowl and pour out the water at the top.
- Use an old, waterproof plate. The wet sand may scratch the surface of your plate and water may seep through a paper plate.