### http://www.messforless.net/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/DSC_01231.jpgBorax Crystal

* string
* wide mouth jar (pint)
* white pipe cleaners
* borax (see tips)
* pencil
* boiling water
* blue food coloring (opt.)
* scissors

**Time Required:** Overnight

### Let's Make Borax Crystal

1. The first step of making borax crystal shape is to make [the shape](http://chemistry.about.com/od/snowsnowflakes/tp/snowflakeshapes.htm). Cut a pipe cleaner into three equal sections.
2. Tie the string to the end of one of the shape arms. Tie the other end of the string to the pencil. You want the length to be such that the pencil hangs the snowflake into the jar.
3. Fill the widemouth pint jar with boiling water.
4. Add borax one tablespoon at a time to the boiling water, stirring to dissolve after each addition. The amount used is 3 tablespoons borax per cup of water. It is okay if some undissolved borax settles to the bottom of the jar.
5. If desired, you may tint the mixture with food color.
6. Hang the pipe cleaner snowflake into the jar so that the pencil rests on top of the jar and the snowflake is completely covered with liquid and hangs freely (not touching the bottom of the jar).
7. Allow the jar to sit in an undisturbed location overnight.
8. Look at the pretty crystals!!! You can hang your snowflake as a decoration or in a window to catch the sunlight.

### Tips for Success

1. Borax is available at grocery stores in the laundry soap section, such as 20 Mule Team Borax Laundry Booster. Do not use Boraxo soap.
2. Because boiling water is used and because borax isn't intended for eating, adult supervision is recommended for this project.
3. If you can't find borax, you can use sugar or salt (may take longer to grow the crystals, so be patient). Add sugar or salt to the [boiling water](http://chemistry.about.com/od/foodcookingchemistry/f/Why-Do-You-Add-Salt-To-Boiling-Water.htm) until it stops dissolving. Ideally you want no crystals at the bottom of the jar.