



## GROWING CRYSTALS

LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY



### OUTLINE OF ACTIVITY

In this activity club members grow large crystals using salt. The crystals will take about a week to grow.

### EQUIPMENT

Quantities are based on a **make** and **take** approach to produce 20 crystal investigations.

- glass jars x 20
- salt
- hot water
- cotton
- straws x 20
- teaspoons x 20
- magnifying glasses x 10
- paper clips
- elastic bands x 20

### SCIENCE CONTEXT

**Changing materials**, that changes occur when materials are mixed, heated or cooled. Reversible changes include dissolving and evaporating.

### SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION

When solids (the solute) dissolve in water (the solvent), the solution becomes stronger, and as more solid dissolves a saturated solution is produced. This means that no more solute can be dissolved by the solvent. Hot solvents can dissolve more solvent than cool ones. If the solvent is left to cool down and the water evaporates, the solute molecules begin to link up and grow into crystals.