



Salt is a mineral that is a crystal when looked at microscopically. Discover salt painting as you and your child use salt and food coloring to create beautiful designs and shapes on cardstock paper. Watch as the small salt crystals absorb the beautiful colors. The salt can be sprinkled by your child's hands on every area where there is glue on the cardstock paper, making it a great sensory play experience for young children.

Salt is an everyday material that absorbs or takes in water. Absorption occurs as the drops of the liquid food coloring touch the salt, the color spreads across the salt. Salt absorbs water from different forms of matter such as a liquid or gas which is the water vapor that is in the air.

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Visual Guide: Crystal Salt Science



FIRST, gather all your materials: Rock Salt, glue bottle, tray, food coloring, and cardstock paper.



THEN, make a design on the cardstock paper using the glue bottle.



NEXT, sprinkle the rock salt all over your cardstock paper. Make sure it covers all the glue!



THEN, shake off any extra salt onto another piece of cardstock paper.



NEXT, make sure all the glue is covered by the rock salt.

*If it isn't, use the extra salt on the cardstock paper and repeat the last two steps.



THEN, take the food coloring of your choice and add a couple of drops to the top of the rock salt. Watch it spread!

Don't add too much color in one area.

TIP:
You can also use a pipette or paint brush to add your food coloring.



LASTLY, let your crystal salt painting dry!



Visual Guide: Crystal Salt Science

Visual Activity Guides

As part of our Autism Access Initiative, NYSCI offers invaluable opportunities for children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to build a solid foundation of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) thinking skills. We are committed to encouraging children with ASD and their families to explore their science process skills, early mathematical thinking, designing and making through hands-on exposure to new materials, tools and experiences.

Many children are strong visual learners and visual thinkers, especially children with autism. Given this strength, NYSCI has created Visual Activity Guides, visual step-by-step instructions to help engage children in STEAM activities when verbal communication and instructions are difficult. Visual Activity Guides encourage the whole family to participate in playful hands-on activities while promoting a positive learning experience that is clear and engaging.

Use these Visual Activity Guides in a way that best makes sense for your child: printed on paper or displayed on a screen. Your child should be able to see the guide before beginning the activity and the guide should continue to be visible throughout. At first, you may need to physically guide your child (for example, gently guide your child by the shoulder and prompt them to point to each step). Try doing the activity more than once and gradually decrease physical prompts as your child begins to use the visual activity guide more independently.

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