



Kool-Aid Rock Candy

Fair warning: you will need to wait about 2 weeks after completing this activity to have fully formed rock candy. But it's worth the wait!

How does rock candy form?

As you watch your sugar crystals form over the next few days, you might wonder why they don't fall off into the sugary Kool-aid water. They grow onto the bamboo skewer because the Kool-aid water already has too much sugar in it. It is **supersaturated** with sugar. Remember when you stirred all that sugar into a pot of water? Once it cooled, it would not let any more sugar dissolve. That's why the rock crystals form on the skewer instead of falling off and dissolving into the water.

- Water
- Large pot
- Sugar (granulated)
- Bamboo skewers
- Kool-aid packets
- Glass jars
- Clothespins
- Spoons for stirring

1. **Prepare the skewers.** Soak the skewers in water for one hour. Then take the skewers out of the water and roll the bottom half in sugar. Let the sugar-coated skewers fully dry.
2. **Make your sugar solution.** Pour 4 cups of water into a large pot and heat it with medium heat. Then start adding one cup of sugar at a time to the pot. Stir until the sugar is fully dissolved. (You can add up to 10 cups.) Once all the sugar is dissolved, boil the mixture for 10 minutes. Then turn off the heat and let the mixture cool for 10-15 minutes.
3. **Prepare the glass jars.** Pour one packet of Kool-aid into each jar. Then pour the sugary water into each jar, filling the whole jar without letting it overflow. Stir each jar until the Kool-aid is dissolved. If your jars have lids, you can shake them up to mix them. **This next step is very important: let the mixture cool to room temperature.**
4. **Put the skewers in the jars.** If you put the skewers in before the mixture has cooled, the hardened sugar on the skewers will dissolve, so make sure the jars are cool enough. Place clothespins across the top of the jars to fasten the skewers in place. The skewers should not touch the bottom or sides of the jars.
5. **Let your rock candy form.** This will take about two weeks, so put your jars in a safe spot and let them sit. Once the skewers are loaded with rock formations, take them out of the jars and enjoy your candy!

“How you made me is amazing and wonderful. I praise you for that. What you have done is wonderful. I know that very well.”
Psalm 139: 14

When you make rock candy, it comes out looking different every time. It would be impossible to make two exactly the same! People are kind of like rock candy. God carefully made each one of us to think, speak, and act differently. Compare your arms with your friends' arms and you'll notice that everybody has their very own shade. Listen to someone speaking another language and notice the sound of new and wonderful words. God celebrates all of our differences, because each of us reflect the image of God in a different way!