

Materials for your Geodes (items in red are not included):

- ◇ Borax (12 tbsp)
- ◇ Ribbon
- ◇ Pipe cleaners

- ◇ Skewer, butter knife, or chop stick
- ◇ Large jar, glass or pitcher
- ◇ Food coloring
- ◇ Boiling water (4 cups approx.)
- ◇ Dishcloth



How to create your Geodes

The color of the pipe cleaner is what decides the color of your geodes. If you only have white pipe cleaners, you can use food coloring in the water solution to dye them. Metallic or colored pipe cleaners work best.



Shape the pipe cleaner(s) as you please and string the ribbon through an open end of the pipe cleaner shape. Suspend it over your **empty** containers (2) using a skewer, butter knife or chop stick. Tie the ends around it so that your pipe cleaner shape doesn't touch the sides or bottom of your container. Once you've got it tied off at the right height, remove it from the containers before you add your water.

***Adult supervision may be required for handling of hot liquids.**



Bring your water to a boil and carefully pour into your containers (2 cups of water per container). Add the borax (6 tbsp per container) and food coloring (if needed), stirring until the borax solution is completely dissolved.



Add your pipe cleaner shapes tied to the skewer, butter knife or chop stick and suspend them over the borax/water solution. Cover with a dish cloth.

Let sit overnight, or a minimum of 5 hours. Remove the dishcloth and be amazed. Carefully pull out the string or curling ribbon from your finished geodes, or leave it on to display it wherever you choose.



Notes:

- Don't throw your water away! To reuse it, heat the water to boiling again and add more borax.
- What effect the food coloring has will fade pretty quickly. Cover your geodes with a coat of clear nail polish if you use food coloring for your pipe cleaner geodes.
- The longer your geode is immersed in the water, the bigger the crystals will become.

*For larger geodes, make a cage out of chicken wire (if available) and wrap it with pipe cleaners before immersing in a borax/water solution.