

Coal Flowers

Description:

Make your own beautiful crystal flowers by using common household products. The flowers look liked snowflakes, watch them grow!

Ingredients:

1 porous brick, lump of coal, or sponge
4 Tbsp bluing (laundry or washing blue)
4 Tbsp table salt
1 Tbsp ammonia
4 Tbsp water
Food coloring
1 bowl

Directions:

Break the brick into chunks and place in a bowl. Mix salt, bluing, water, and ammonia, and pour over the brick pieces. Place drops of food coloring over the brick pieces. Put in a dry place for one to two days — then observe. To grow more crystals, add more salt, bluing and water to the bowl.

National Standards for Science

Grades 5-8 Standard F - Coal is a natural resource. This can used when talking about the chemical reaction that takes place when bluing, salt, ammonia and water are combined and poured onto the coal.