DIY
Grow Your Own Crystals
by Chloe Hayward
Taking inspiration from art, work with an adult to grow your own crystals! Inspired by artist Michael Demps’s artwork *Untitled: Dehiscent Echo* (2017), use everyday household materials to create a colorful sparkling, sculpture!

**Materials**

- Pipe cleaner
- Borax
- String
- Pencil
- 7 cups of water
- Food coloring
- Aluminum foil
- Pot
- Large glass container/jar

**Step 1**
Fill a large pot with water, and with the help of an adult, bring it to a gentle boil.

**Step 2**
Add borax by the cup and stir, continuing to add it until the water stays cloudy.

**Step 3**
Add food coloring to the cloudy water to give your crystals color. Transfer the solution to a large glass jar or container.

**Step 4**
Take your pipe cleaner and create a twisted coil. Attach the coil to your string and then tie the string to your pencil.

**Step 5**
Dip your pipe cleaner in the colored solution a few times before setting it down inside. Cover the solution with foil overnight. You will have crystals the next day!

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**Michael Demps**
*Untitled: Dehiscent Echo* (installation view), 2017
Courtesy the artist
Photo: Adam Reich