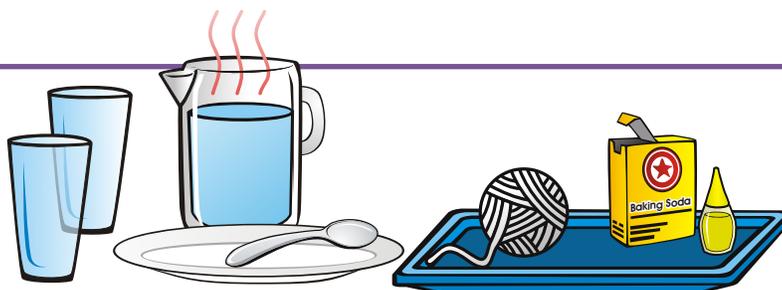




## What you need:

- 2 drinking glasses
- Small plate
- 3 strands of yarn
- Tablespoon
- Baking soda
- Warm water
- Food coloring
- Tray (optional)



## What you do:

**Step 1:** Put a few drops of food coloring into each glass

**Step 2:** Fill the two glasses  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with very warm water. Add 5 tablespoons of baking soda to each glass and stir to dissolve.

**Step 3:** Place the two glasses in a warm place and put the plate between them. You can also put the glasses and plate on a tray for easy transport and clean-up!

**Step 4:** Twist the 3 strands of yarn to make one piece of yarn.

**Step 5:** Dip the twisted yarn into the baking soda solution.

**Step 6:** Place the ends of the yarn into each of the glasses so that the middle of the yarn hangs over the plate. Make sure each end is submerged in the baking soda solution.

**Step 7:** Leave the glasses in the warm place for several days. Look at the middle of the yarn and the plate. What do you see?



## What's going on:

Stalactites and stalagmites are formations that occur in underground caves. They are made from minerals dissolved in rainwater that drip slowly from the walls and roofs of caves. The water evaporates as it drips. The dissolved minerals stay behind and develop into the structures. Stalactites hang down from the cave ceiling and stalagmites rise from the cave floor. The same process is happening with your baking soda stalactites and stalagmites!

## Now try this:

When stalactites and stalagmites become large enough, they may connect and develop into columns. Leave your experiment for a few more days, do the stalactites and stalagmites join to form columns?

