Crystals
Grow Your Own Garden

Materials:
small piece of porous brick or charcoal briquette
1 tablespoon liquid bluing (in the laundry section of a grocery store)
1 tablespoon ammonia
1 tablespoon salt
2 tablespoons water shallow dish
magnifying glass (optional)

To do and notice:
1. Place the brick in the dish.
2. Mix the bluing, ammonia, salt and water until they are thoroughly combined.
3. Pour the water mixture over the brick.
4. Let the dish stand undisturbed for three or four days. Make daily observations.
   • What do you see?
   • When did crystals appear?
5. Observe the crystals with a magnifying glass.
   • What do the crystals look like?

A closer look:
The brick acts as a wick, soaking up the liquid in the dish. Crystals form as water evaporates from the surface of the brick, leaving the chemicals behind. The chemicals form crystal patterns.

Now try this with a different batch:
Add food coloring to the liquid mixture.
• Are the crystals colored?