

MAGIC CRYSTALS

1. With a student's help, heat some sodium thiosulphate crystals **slowly** in a test tube over a Bunsen burner.

Watch what happens.

2. Cool the solution and pour it into a small dish.

Add one crystal of sodium thiosulphate with forceps and watch what happens under a stereo microscope.

Neat, isn't it?

But why does this happen? Ask a student or check the sheets on the end of the table.

REASONS

The sodium thiosulphate crystals use water molecules to help bind the crystal together.

Heating breaks these bonds and the thiosulphate dissolves into its own water, forming a saturated solution.

Placing a single crystal in the solution "seeds" it and crystals start to grow as the thiosulphate comes out of solution.

The water "disappears" as it is incorporated back into the crystal structure.