



SCARY, SCARY HALLOWEEN

by
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Cats have this wonderful ability "to see in the dark". Every child would like to have this special ability on Halloween Night. It would make them feel safer as they walk around in the dark saying "trick or treat".

Do ghosts rise on Halloween? This is a question that even adults wonder about! If there is no such thing as a ghost, why are we always talking about them? The unknown is a scary, but wonderful part of our imagination.

Here is a simple experiment to do with your students during the week before Halloween or any time during the year. Suddenly a glass of water can be turned upside down without pouring out. Is it magic? Could there be ghost crystals in the water to help? Try this simple activity with your students to show them that these crystals are real!

MATERIALS: water gel crystals (\$4.95/4 oz.) available from Educational Innovations www.teachersource.com, 1-888-912-7474, water, cups, quart to gallon-sized container, dark thread

ACTIVITY: Add a small quantity of the water gel crystals to a cup of water. These crystals are hydrophilic (water-loving); they have the chemical structure to absorb a huge amount of water. Two ounces of crystals can absorb a gallon of water. As they absorb the water, they seem to disappear; this is the reason why I think of them as "ghost crystals". Very carefully tie a piece of thread around a crystal and hang the crystal in a glass of water. It will seem to disappear, but the thread is still visible. Think of other activities to amaze your students. They can be easily dyed with normal food coloring.

SOURCE: *Activities for a Science Table IV*, SMART Center, Sacred Heart University, August 1993.

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.8, 3.1, 3.2, 4.6, 6.1, 6.3, 8.2, 11.3, 12.2, 12.3

NCTM: 4d, 10a, 10c

SCS: A1, B1, D1, E1, H2, H4

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