

# Homemade Cotton Candy

Celebrate National Cotton Candy Day by creating the sticky confectionary treat at home!

## Collect

- Adult safety partner
- Stove
- Newspaper
- Heavy book
- Plastic bag
- 2 wooden spoons
- Cooking spray
- Wire cutters
- Old whisk
- Saucepan
- Potholder
- 2 cups granulated sugar
- 1/2 cup light corn syrup
- 1/2 cup water
- Food coloring
- Candy thermometer



## Prep the kitchen.

1. Protect the floor around your work area with newspaper or something similar.
2. Wrap the heavy book in a plastic bag to protect it from flying sugar and place it on the counter.
3. Wedge two wooden spoons under the book so that they are parallel, with the spoon handles hanging off of the side of the counter.
4. Spray the wooden spoons with cooking spray.
5. With an adult's help, use the wire cutters to snip the rounded ends of the whisk and carefully straighten out the tines.

## Get cooking.

6. Add 2 cups of granulated sugar, 1/2 cup light corn syrup, and 1/2 cup water to the saucepan. Whisk the ingredients together.
7. Place the pan over medium to high heat and add your candy thermometer.
8. Let the mixture heat until the thermometer reaches 300°F. Ask your adult safety partner to help you carefully remove the saucepan from the heat.
9. Whisk in a couple drops of food coloring and allow the mixture to thicken slightly.

## Make it flossy!

10. Dip the whisk into the sugary goop and quickly wave it back and forth above the wooden spoons.
11. The sugar strands will gently drift and collect on the wooden spoons.
12. Continue the process until you have enough to either wrap around a rolled piece of paper, or just wad into a big sticky ball.
13. Eat and enjoy!

## Who invented this stuff?

Although cotton candy is all sugar, the first cotton candy machine was actually invented by a dentist! William James Morrison, along with candy maker John C. Wharton, invented the cotton candy machine. The machine could melt sugar crystals and then spin the liquid through a mesh screen in order to create thin, solid candy threads. The pair introduced their machine at the 1904 World's Fair to rave reviews!

