

Melting Ice

Exploring ice is a fun and investigatory way to explore changing states and climate change. The following activities and continuous provision station provide learners with a sensory experience that helps them to explore the habitat of polar bears and the effect of our earth warming. The experiment can be linked with popular stories that reference the ice caps melting and loss of polar bear habitat, *The Bear is in the Sky* by Alexis Snell is a suitable book for this activity.

Teaching time

Continuous Provision Station

Learning outcomes

Demonstrate understanding of what has been read to them by retelling stories and narratives using their own words and recently introduced vocabulary.

Anticipate – where appropriate – key events in stories

Use and understand recently introduced vocabulary during discussions about stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems and during roleplay

Step by step

Enquiry: During the summer months, place an ice block in direct sunlight and observe as it changes state. Prompt learners to consider what changes are occurring with 'I wonder' statements. Introduce relevant vocabulary including 'melting, changing state, solid and liquid' and encourage learners to use these whilst predicting and observing the changes.

In the following session, place an ice block in direct sunlight and one ice block under a tree or in the shade. Now invite learners to observe both ice blocks and predict which will melt first and why, discuss the experiment as a group. Invite learners to think about what will happen, observe and explore the outcome through 'I wonder' statements.

- I wonder which ice cube will melt first
- I wonder how the ice will change.
- I wonder what will happen if we place the ice blocks in different places.
- I wonder which will melt first a large or small ice block.

In the next session, read *The Bear in the sky* by Alexis Snell and link the story to the melting ice. Create a safe space for learners to draw similarities between the ice that they have observed and polar bear habitats. Learners will have varying levels of understanding on climate change and habitat loss, and this should be a safe space to discuss learners' worries and misconceptions.

Once learners have been exposed to new vocabulary, they can further explore these concepts by leaving ice blocks in a tuff tray. To encourage self-discovery, place objects inside the ice or place the ice in water and allow learners to explore.

Green Skills



Suitable for

Early Years

Location

Indoors
Outdoors

Season

Spring
Summer
Autumn
Winter

What you'll need

The Bear is in the Sky (Alexis Snell) or another book about snow / ice melting.

An ice block (you can freeze a balloon filled with water)

Key vocabulary

Ice
Melt
Habitat

Support and extension opportunities

For more activity supporting the Literacy Early Learning Goal, go to the Literacy web page.



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www.educationnaturepark.org.uk

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