

All About Melting Ice



Look at the photo. Ice is floating in the water. Observe that most of the ice is under water. The bowl is filled to the top with water. As the ice melts, will the water overflow? Make a scientific guess. Making a scientific guess is called a hypothesis. Ask other children or family members to make their hypothesis.

You Will Need

Glass or bowl, ice, water, piece of wood

What to Do

1. Fill a glass or bowl half full of ice.
2. Add water to fill your container to the top. Make sure the container can hold no more water.
3. Observe what happens as the ice melts.

What Do You Observe?

The water in your container does not overflow. Why? As the ice melts, it changes from a solid to a liquid. Why didn't the liquid from the melting ice cause the water to overflow? Remember that water expands when it freezes. When it expands it takes up more space. It displaces or pushes some of the water out of the way. As the ice melts, the liquid is taking up the same space it already occupies.

Try This

Fill a bowl about half full. Float a piece of wood in the bowl. It should look like a raft. Slowly, place as many ice cubes on the "raft" as you can. Now slowly fill the bowl to the top with water. Make sure the ice remains on the "raft." As the ice melts, will the water overflow? Make another hypothesis.