

Picking Up an Ice Cube

Science Experiment

Ice cubes are a great thing to add to your drink on a sunny day. Using only a length of thread, can you pick up the ice cube?

You will need:

- ice cube
- thread
- salt
- glass of water



Method:

1. Try different ways of picking up the ice cube using only the thread. You might try tying it around the cube, making a loop or some other way.
2. Now put the ice cube in the glass of water.
3. Lay the thread on top of the ice cubes with the ends hanging over the side of the glass.
4. Sprinkle salt on top of the ice cube and thread. Leave it for a few minutes.
5. Take both ends of the thread and pick them up.
6. Lift up the ends of the thread and hold them up high. See what happens to the ice cube.

The science:

Saltwater freezes at a lower temperature than normal water (this is why the sea doesn't freeze over). The salt melts some of the ice so the thread goes slightly inside the ice cube. The water over the thread freezes again slightly (because the air by the cube is cold), trapping the thread inside the cube. So when you lift the thread, the cube comes with it.

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Why is it difficult to tie the thread in a loop around the ice cube to pick it up?

Watch carefully. What happens when you put the salt on the ice cube?

When the roads are icy and slippery, salt is sometimes put on them. Why do you think this is?



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