

Melting Ice Experiment

Materials:

- Two clear glasses
- Material to suspend ice cubes over glass of water, such as cheesecloth or perforated plastic wrap
- Ice cubes
- Hair drier or other warming device to melt the ice (optional)

Step 1: Fill both glasses with water to half full. (Using warm water will speed the results.)

Step 2: Add two to three ice cubes to one glass and mark the water level on the outside of the glass.

Step 3: Mark the water level on the other glass.

Step 4: Take the same number of ice cubes that you used in the first glass and suspend them over the water in the second glass. For example, you can stretch cheesecloth or perforated plastic wrap across the lip of the glass and place the ice cubes on top. Make sure that the meltwater from the ice cubes is positioned to drip inside the glass. Predict what will happen when the ice cubes in both glasses melt.

Step 5: Observe what happens. If you haven't used warm water to begin with, you may want to use a heating device such as a hair drier to speed the melting process. Once the ice in both glasses has melted, check the water levels. Describe what has happened in both cases and relate each case to melting ice at the poles.