

LEARNING RESOURCE



Glassy Ice Sculptures

Glass is a technically challenging but alluring material for sculptors. The transparency and fragility of glass provides many possibilities for the exploration of light, colour, space and solidity.

This resource shows you how to create glassy ice sculptures at home using a freezer, plastic containers and found materials. By adding dyes or submerging found objects into plastic moulds filled with water, it is possible to explore colour and transparency in a myriad of ways. Once the ice sculptures are taken out of the freezer, try playing with the ice sculptures under different lights and in various arrangements as they begin to melt and transform.

What will I need for this project?

Plastic containers or ice trays

Freezer

Range of natural or man-made materials to submerge in ice

Water

Food dyes or ink

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Step one:

Gather your materials together. Consider collecting objects of different weights, textures and colours to submerge into the ice. You may want to collect materials that are semi-transparent as well as opaque.



Step two:

Fill your plastic containers with water and then submerge your collected materials into the water.



Step three:

Try adding food dye, ink, coloured foils or plastics to create coloured ice casts. Carefully place your containers in the freezer and leave overnight or until completely frozen.



Step four:

Take the casts out of the plastic moulds to reveal your ice sculptures!



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How to develop your icy sculptures:

- Try arranging them in different ways. Could they stack, balance on top of each other or be rotated?
- What happens if you shine a light through your icy sculptures?
- How do they change and melt over time? Could you photograph or film the sculptures as they slowly disappear?

