

Exploring our homes

# Escape from the ice



Millgate House Education

## About this activity

This activity helps children to understand the properties of water and that it can freeze and melt.

In this activity, children handle a foil-wrapped object and they are encouraged to think about what might be inside.

When it is opened, they find a small figure trapped inside a block of ice! How can they help it escape its icy prison?

## Kit list

- Yoghurt pot or small freezable container
- A figurine, e.g. Lego person
- Water
- A freezer
- Foil
- Other resources to release the figure, e.g. a small hammer or bowl of tepid water

## Key words

Ice, melt, freeze, thaw, water, liquid, solid

## What to do

1. Put a small amount of water in a yoghurt pot or similar container and add a figurine. Put this in the freezer.
2. When it is frozen, top up the water and freeze again so that the figurine will be inside the ice, not floating on the top.
3. Release the ice from its container. You might need to run the yoghurt pot under a little water to free the ice.
4. Wrap the ice in tin foil.
5. Hand out the foil parcels and ask them what they think is inside? How would they know this?
6. Have them try bang the parcel on the table, to find out if it is hard. See if it will bend and stretch.
7. How does it feel in their hands?



8. After unwrapping, discuss what the best way to get the figurine out of the ice is. Putting it in a bowl of warm water perhaps? Or maybe putting in on the windowsill? How about tapping it with a hammer?
9. Finish up by going over what they learnt, making sure to use the key vocabulary.

## Things to think about

The children can consider:

- Where do you think this water is coming from?
- Why are your hands cold and wet?
- What will make the ice melt?
- Would anything make the ice melt faster?
- How can we get the person out of the ice?

## Extra things to do

You child could draw or tell a story about how the figurine got into the ice.

## Watch out!

Take care when breaking the figurine out of the ice. If a small hammer is to be used, make sure the ice is secure to prevent it from slipping or hitting fingers.

Have a towel handy to mop up any mess.