



RECREATION AT HOME

Fishing for Ice STEM Activity

Let's get started with this ice fishing winter science activity in the comfort of your warm home!

What you need:

• Ice cubes	• Glass of water
• Salt	• Food colouring (optional)
• String or twine	

Before you actually get into the full experiment, have your kids attempt to use the string to fish for ice. What happens?

Steps:

1. Add half a dozen or so ice cubes to a cup and fill with water.
2. Lay the string over an ice cube.
3. Sprinkle salt over the string and ice. Wait 30-60 seconds.
4. Gently pull the string. The ice should come along with it!



Troubleshooting Fishing:

There's a couple of things to keep in the back of your mind when you are doing this ice fishing winter science activity.

First, the length of time the string sits on the ice can make a difference. Experiment with different time increments.

Second, the amount of salt used can affect the melting of the ice. Too much salt and the ice will melt too fast. Or too little time on the ice, the string won't have time to freeze to the cube!

Experiment!

Turn your ice fishing activity into an experiment. Encourage your kids to come up with questions and to dig a little deeper.

- How many seconds is the right amount of time for the string to pick up the ice?
- What type of string is best for ice fishing?

The Science!

Why does everyone use salt to melt ice?

Adding salt to ice will lower the ice's melting point. Salt causes a physical change by altering the properties and temperature of the ice cube. However, if the surrounding temperature is still freezing, the ice will re-freeze (reversible change) and freeze the string along with it. Now you have ice fishing!

