

Weather

Related books

The Cloud Book by Julian May
Cloud Book by Tomie DePaola
Clouds by Thomas McGrath
Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett
It Looked Like Spilt Milk by Charles G. Shaw
Sky Dragon by Ron Wegen

Michael Krestar, White Oak, PA

Objects in Ice

4+

Science skills

Children experiment with frozen water and make predictions.

Materials

Tiny toys

Large container

Water

Freezer

Chart paper and marker

What to do

1. Have children put the tiny toys into a container.
2. Pour in enough water to cover the objects, and freeze.
3. Ask the children to check the container throughout the day.
4. When the water is frozen solid, remove the block of ice and pass it around for everyone to handle.
5. Ask the children if they know how to get the toys out again and how long it might take for the ice block to melt if left out. Write down their suggestions and predictions. Try one or two of their suggestions.

More to do

Outdoors: On a cold winter day, take a walk and look on the ground for small ice patches. Give children sticks and let them poke at the ice to see if it is completely frozen.

Sharon Dempsey, Mays Landing, NJ

Oobleck

4+

Science skills

This activity encourages the development of language and fine motor skills.

Weather

Materials

Bartholomew and the Oobleck by Dr. Seuss

Mixing bowl

Water

Cornstarch

Durable plastic or wooden shapes or blocks, optional

Green food coloring

Rubber gloves

Water table or plastic tubs

What to do

1. Prepare oobleck as follows: Pour 2 cups (500 ml) of water and 8 drops of green food coloring into a large mixing bowl. Add 2 boxes of cornstarch and $1\frac{1}{3}$ cups (330 ml) water. Use rubber gloves and a lifting motion with your fingers to blend mixture to an even consistency. The mixture should flow when you tip the bowl, yet feel stiff when you rub your finger across its surface. Add small amounts of water or cornstarch to alter as needed.
2. Pour the oobleck into a water table or into plastic tubs to place on tables. Cover to prevent the mixture from drying out. Set shapes/blocks aside for possible use.
3. Gather the children for a reading of *Bartholomew and the Oobleck*. In this charming story, a king becomes bored with the weather and orders a green, gummy, gooey substance called oobleck to fall from the sky.
4. After the story, invite the children to explore the amazing texture of the oobleck you have prepared. Props can be added to represent things in the kingdom that were covered with oobleck.

Note: A more advanced version of this activity is described in *Oobleck: What Do Scientists Do? A Teacher's Guide* by Cary I. Sneider.

More to do

Art: Give the children green finger paints or playdough.

Snack: Add green food coloring to vanilla pudding for an ooblecky snack.

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Related book

Cloudy With a Chance of Meatballs by Judi Barrett

(Great activities to do with this story can be found in *Story S-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-r-s: Activities to Expand Children's Favorite Books* by Shirley C. Raines and Robert J. Canady.)

■ Susan A. Sharkey, LaMesa, CA

4+

Piggies in a Blanket

Science skills

This experiment involves observing and recording data.

Materials

2 or more safe thermometers

Shoe boxes

Colored fabric pieces 6" x 6" (15 cm x 15 cm), one black and one white

Chart paper and marker