



Simple Science: Melting Ice

Some experts say climate change in the next century will cause ice to melt, raising ocean levels. What types of ice will contribute: glacier ice? sea ice? Learn more by doing this simple experiment.

You'll need:

- A large, flat-bottomed, clear plastic or glass measuring cup (or similar container).
- Two large chunks of ice.
- An unopened soup can, label removed.

Procedure:

1. Fill the container with water and mark the water level.
2. Add one chunk of ice.
3. Wait for the ice to melt. Then note the water level. How did it change, if at all?
4. Repeat the experiment. This time, place the soup can within the cup, setting it on the bottom. Fill the cup with water to a level very close to the rim of the can, but no higher, and mark the water level.
5. Place the second chunk of ice on top of the soup can.
6. Wait for the ice to melt. Then note the water level. How did it change, if at all?

Discussion:

- Can you account for the difference in the water levels?
- Which type of ice – glacier or sea - compares to the ice in the first experiment? The second experiment?

