

EARTH SCIENCE SERIES

PAINT WITH ICE

What kinds of art supplies have you tried to create different marks and textures? Do markers create the same texture as crayons? What about a pen or a pencil, or washable tempera paint versus watercolors? You can use ice to make an entirely different kind of painting!

MATERIALS AND STEPS

- An ice cube tray
- Food coloring or liquid watercolors
- Popsicle sticks, straws, or toothpicks
- A plate
- A piece of paper

To prepare your materials, fill an ice cube tray with water. Carefully drop each color you want to use into one cube. Add a popsicle stick, straw, toothpick, or anything you can use to make a handle into each colored cube. Put the ice cube tray into your freezer until the water is frozen into solid ice.

Remove the tray from the freezer and pop out your colored ice cubes. You can place these new tools onto the plate so that as the ice cubes melt the water is contained. Holding each cube by the handles you made, use them to paint on your piece of paper. What do you observe? How is an ice cube different from or the same as a paintbrush? Create any pattern or image you wish!

Share your masterpiece on social media using #AtTheMuseums

THINGS TO TALK ABOUT

What would happen if instead of freezing colored water, you tried freezing washable paints in your ice cube tray? What would be different about the paintings you created?

How did your new tools change as they started to melt? Was it easier to use them fresh out of the freezer or five minutes later? What would happen if you worked very slowly?

FUN FACT

You can use ice to paint outside, too. Grind up one stick of sidewalk chalk and mix with half a cup of water to create sidewalk paint. You can try freezing the chalk mixture to paint your driveway or sidewalk.



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