

Watercolor Ice Cubes

Age Level: Ages 3-4 (Preschool)

Subject(s) Area: Art, Science

Materials Needed: Ice blocks, water color paint, paintbrushes, smocks (to keep children's clothes clean)

Standards: (Pre-K or Kindergarten Standards or Early Learning Guidelines)

SCI.1.2 Recognize and inquire about simple cause and effect relationships

SCI.1.3 Observe and describe changes that occur in the world, including changes to living things and natural processes.

ART.4.1 Use a variety of media and techniques to create art, including a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional processes.

SCI.3.2 Observe and describe the physical properties of materials

Objectives:

Children will paint a variety of colors on ice blocks

Children will see physical change in the shape of ice blocks as the ice melts

Children will learn mixing colors create new fun colors

Learning Activities:

Bring children into a big group for circle time and show children the ice blocks. Ask them question about how water turns into ice, and how water can freeze. Ask children what kinds of things they use to paint, and introduce watercolor paints and how they work. Group children into small groups and each will be given an ice block and various watercolor paints. Allow children to explore watercolor paints on the ice blocks and see how the paint melts the ice and each color mixes together to create new colors. This is an exploration activity that allows children to use a variety of colors to create art while seeing physical change in the ice blocks as they melt.

Reflective Questions:

What colors are you using?

What happens when you mix color A and color B?

What is happening to the ice as it is being painted?

How does water turn into ice?

Vocabulary Words:

Freeze, ice cube, melt, solid, liquid

Assessment:

Observe how children are using the paint, and if they understand how each color mixes together to create new colors. Ask questions about what they are doing and what colors they are using. This activity is a great exploration time to allow children to see physical change in the ice blocks while creating art.

Reflection:

This activity went very well, but at the same time did not go the way I had planned. The first thing that went wrong was that the ice cubes were not very frozen. This was a bit of a letdown but it actually was nice that it was not completely frozen, because I was able to show the children how the outside of the cube was frozen, and the inside was still liquid, which they thought was so interesting. This was a great way to show the children the stages of the phases. They can see that this block of ice was in the middle of changing from a liquid to a solid. The goal of my activity was for the children to use watercolor paint and explore different colors while painting and seeing the ice melt. The activity turned out to be a “breaking the ice to get to the water in the middle” activity. Again, though it was not exactly what I had planned, the children were having a blast and discovering how to accomplish this task. This sort of turned into a science activity and I should have figured out a way to turn off the art switch and turn on the science switch to adapt to what the children were doing. It was definitely a learning experience. I also learned that I have to be patient when asking children questions, and allow them to have time to think and respond instead of just giving them the answer right away. Overall I feel that this activity went very well and the children had a great time playing with the ice and mixing colors.