Ice Blocks

Ice is an almost magical natural phenomenon. Here’s a fun way to use ice to create something beautiful. If you want, experiment with this procedure to achieve different results.

**Directions**

1. Gather interesting natural materials (spruce cones, sticks, rocks, leaves, etc.) from outside.
2. Fill one or more containers with water. Then add your natural materials.
3. Set the containers outside overnight to freeze. (If it’s not cold enough outside, put the containers in the freezer.)
4. Once they have frozen solid, remove the ice blocks from the containers. If you’re having trouble, briefly run the containers under hot water to loosen the ice.
5. Use your blocks to create interesting outdoor sculptures.

**Materials**

- Assortment of recycled plastic containers (bowls, empty yogurt tubs, etc.)
- Natural items

**Questions**

- Which items sank to the bottom when you put them in the water?
- Which items floated?
- Will your ice block melt if you leave it outside today? If so, how long do you think it will take to melt?
- What could you do differently so that heavy items end up frozen off the bottom at the end?