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**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

## Ice cubes

Ice cubes are a great object for a science investigation, especially on a hot summer. All you need is ice cubes and other things like a stopwatch or cell phone or clock; teaspoons or tablespoons; a ruler to measure size and/or materials to be used for insulation. Think of the question you would like to answer and then figure out how to answer your question. For example, you might wonder how long it takes an ice cube to melt. You would need the ice cube, of course, but you would also need a stopwatch or some kind of timer and you would want to check the melting process on a regular basis, so that you can catch that end melting point! Make a “t” chart to record the times. OR, you might wonder how much water there is in an ice cube. If so, you would need to melt the ice cube in a container and then measure the water with a teaspoon or tablespoon or whatever. OR, you could measure the length, width and height of your ice cube every 1 minute or 5 minutes to see if it shrinks the same all the time or if it shrinks in size faster toward the end. OR, you could try to insulate your ice cube to see how long you could make it last, before it was completely melted. You might decide to use a washcloth or paper towels or other materials to insulate your ice cube to keep it from melting. In the old days, before refrigerators, ice blocks were cut out of frozen lakes, stored in sawdust for insulation and sold to people in the community to use in their “iceboxes” to keep their food cold, so it wouldn’t spoil as fast. Sounds like several hours’ or days’ worth of experiments to try! Have fun!



1 Ice cube supplies



2 Rate of melting



3 Shrink rate of ice cube



4 Slowing melting rate