

About this activity

In this activity, children will produce beautiful ice gardens that attract their observations, stimulate their imaginations and can lead to creative outcomes (in speaking and listening, art or writing).

Time

30 minutes

Kit list

- ✓ Variety of leaves, flowers, buds
- ✓ Water
- ✓ Shallow trays
- ✓ Optional: food colouring
- ✓ Access to a freezer

Next steps

Make a collection of natural and manufactured materials. Tell the children that they need to decide which things can go in an ice garden. Remind them that only natural things can go into the ice garden.



Ice Gardens

Instructions

- 1 For this activity, it is a good starting point to show the children 'one that I made earlier'. This helps them to visualise what their own garden could include. Put some interesting natural objects in the bottom of a tray. Pour in a shallow layer of water to float the objects and then place in the freezer. When it is frozen, add more water and freeze again.
- 2 As each child selects their samples, discuss differences and similarities between the flowers, fruits and leaves – consider colour, size, shape, number of petals, seeds, etc. Practice counting, or graph making, by observing how many different leaves or flowers are used.
- 3 Label the trays with each child's name or their bubble group. Add a shallow layer of water to their tray. Children will see the contents float on top of the liquid – discuss the problem of how to get the leaves and flowers inside the ice.

- 4 Place the trays in the freezer for a couple of hours and show the results. They may now see that they can put a second layer of water over the contents and freeze it again.
- 5 Give children time to observe the ice gardens as they melt.

Think and talk about

- ✓ Look closely at your ice garden – what can you see?
- ✓ Which of these are flowers/leaves/fruit? How do you know?
- ✓ Are all plants safe to pick?
- ✓ Where would you like to go to choose your samples?

At home

Ask children to tell their family how they made the Ice Garden through to the point at which it melted.

Skill unlocked

- ✓ Curious
- ✓ Observant