



ICE MELTING RACE

Discover why ice cubes melt faster in the sun than in the shade.

Materials

- 2 Plastic containers or ice cube trays
- Cardboard box
- 2 Paper plates
- Freezer



Procedure

- Fill up two containers with equal amounts of water.
- Freeze the container overnight.
- Place the frozen blocks on paper plates.
- Place both plates out in the sun near each other. Place the cardboard box over one plate, shading it. Leave the other out in the sun.
- Observe for a few hours. Which ice cube melted first?

Results

The ice cube in the shade of the cardboard box melted more slowly!

Why?

Sunlight contains energy, which is absorbed by objects and converted into heat. The more direct contact something has with sunlight, the hotter it will get. The ice that was left in direct sunlight melted faster because the ice cube in the shade was insulated by the box and shielded from direct sunlight.