

“In the Water”

Module 14, Painting with Ice

The logo for "EXPLORE IT" is enclosed in a black rectangular border. The word "EXPLORE" is in a bold, sans-serif font, with the letter "O" colored green and the letter "R" colored purple. The word "IT" is in a smaller, regular sans-serif font.

Prompt:

Use ice to create colorful designs on paper or the sidewalk!

Note: This activity needs ice that you prepared in advance. If you weren't able to prepare the ice, try one of the activities from "[50 Ways to Play](#)" or do one of your favorite activities from last week again-- and try this one tomorrow!.

Materials:

- Colored ice cubes (prepared beforehand)
- Food coloring or [liquid watercolor](#)
- [Popsicle sticks](#)
- Plain paper
- Optional: Crayons, markers, colored pencils, or sidewalk chalk

To prepare ice:

1. Fill an ice tray or small plastic cups (dixie cups or yogurt cups work great) with water.
2. Add a couple drops of food coloring or [liquid watercolor](#) to the water and stir.
3. Add [popsicle sticks](#) in each cube, to use as handles for painting.
4. Freeze overnight.

Note for caregivers: This activity could get messy. Use a plastic table cloth or garbage bag to cover any surfaces you don't want to get wet or do this activity outside.

Instructions:

1. Read the prompt with your child.
2. Work together to set up an area in your home or outside where your child can explore ice and paint with it. Your child can paint on paper or the sidewalk.
3. Invite your child to begin painting. Demonstrate how you can hold the popsicle stick and move the ice on the paper or sidewalk to make a design. If your paper gets too wet, it may start to rip so you'll want several pieces of paper for your child to keep painting.
4. As ice starts to melt it may fall off the popsicle sticks. Encourage your child to

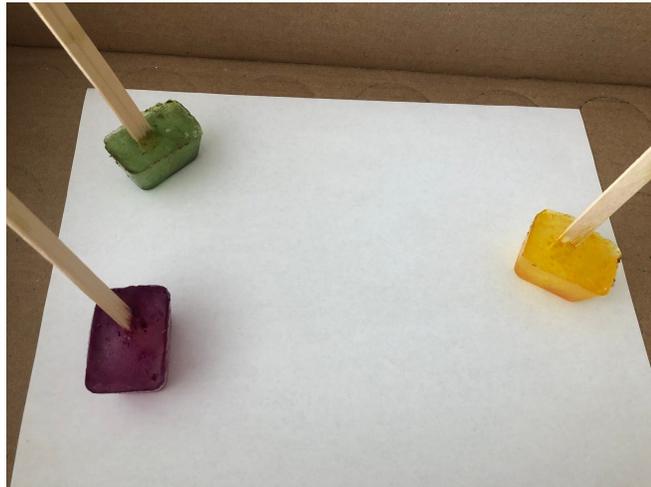
experiment using their hands. Food coloring may stain hands, but will come off with time and lots of soap and water.

5. When your child's paper has dried, invite them to add to their design with crayons, markers, or colored pencils. If you painted on the sidewalk, give your child sidewalk chalk to add to their designs.

Tip: Reserve some ice ahead of time and continue to hand it out slowly, so your child always has exciting fresh ice to play with!

Resources:

1. Check out Boston Children's Museum Instructables Page for more ideas on ways to play with ice: [Exploring Ice: 6 Steps \(with Pictures\)](#).
2. Need Inspiration? Check out this ice painting made by your *Explore It* guides.



Extensions:

If your child needs more challenges to go along with this activity:

- Use the link in the Resources section of this page to get some more ideas on things to try with ice, such as experimenting with salt or sugar.
- Once all the ice has melted, use the popsicle sticks to create something new! Make a frame for your picture or glue them together to make a sculpture.

Together with your child, go to the “In the Water” topic on Flipgrid and share their ice paintings.