

Great Explorations

Ages 2-7



Here are some fun projects to do At Home all about the Tundra...

At the Museum, you can lead a dogsled, climb an ice wall, and walk in snowshoes. For now, we're staying at home, but you can use this guide and your imagination to take a trip to the frozen Tundra!

Create Chilly Chalk

Follow this recipe to create your own colorful sidewalk chalk – out of ice!

Materials: Corn starch, baking soda, food coloring, ice trays, water, mixing bowl.
Optional: vinegar, spray bottle.

Add equal parts corn starch and baking soda in your bowl and mix together thoroughly. Spoon the mixture into the ice trays, filling each slot halfway. Add a few drops of food coloring to each slot. Try adding two colors together in one slot.

Fill the rest of the tray with water, and gently stir the mixture in each slot until fully combined. Leave the ice trays in the freezer to set for at least four hours. Once your chalk has frozen solid, pop the cubes out of the tray to bring outside, and start creating your masterpiece on the sidewalk!

What do the colors of your chalk drawings look like on the sidewalk after a few minutes?

Play Ice Fishing Game

What happens when salt meets ice? Find out by playing this game!

Materials: Cup of water, ice cubes, table salt, 2 pieces of string.

Place the ice cubes in the cup of water. You'll see them floating at the top. First, try fishing for an ice cube with the piece of string. Did you catch anything? Now place the string in the water, lay it across the top of the ice cubes, then sprinkle a bit of salt over the cubes. Wait a minute or so, then pull out the string. What did you catch after you added the salt? See who can catch the most ice cubes!

Salt melts ice, but if you use just a small amount, it will melt and re-freeze!

Polar bears
Look snowy and white.
Arctic hares
Hop out of sight.
Sweet baby seals
Change as they grow.
Snowy owls fly
High and low.
How do they all
Stay snug and warm,
In snow, and ice,
And freezing storms?



STATEN ISLAND CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

AT HOME!

Do Excavate!

Pretend you are an archaeologist exploring the frozen tundra for fossils. Archaeologists need to remove fossils very carefully to examine them. This process is called excavation.

Materials: Freezer-safe plastic container, small toys/figurines, water, salt, "chiseling tools" (toothpicks, chopsticks, or anything similar you have around the house.)

Plan ahead for this activity by making your glacier in advance. Fill a plastic container halfway with water, add your "fossils" (small toys or figurines that you won't mind getting wet), and freeze. When the first half is frozen solid, cover the fossils with more water and put it back in the freezer. Don't fill the container completely because the water will expand as it freezes! When the rest of the water is frozen solid, you'll see your fossils trapped inside! Now it's time to start excavating, so grab your chiseling tools.

What happens if you place salt on the ice block?
What happens if you rub it or add warm water?

For more At Home! activities and information about our exhibits visit us at

sichildrensmuseum.org

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