

Ice cubes aren't the only example of floating ice in our world. Think about lakes and ponds in the winter. If it gets cold enough, a layer of ice floats on top of the water.

FLOATING ICE

Water is very special. It gets bigger when it freezes. Water is the only thing on Earth that does this. This is also why ice can float in water.

Skates on ice. Photo courtesy of stock.xchng.

FLOATING ICE



<http://beyondpenguins.nsdl.org>

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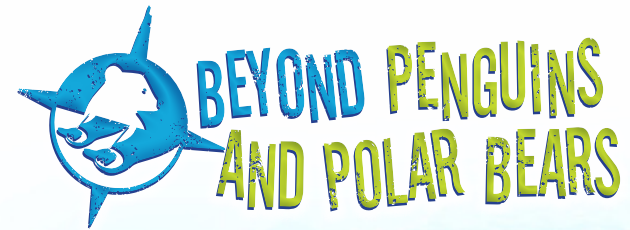
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FLOATING ICE

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Iceberg. Photo
courtesy of iStockphoto.

Sometimes, pieces of ice **calve** off the ends
and form **icebergs**. These icebergs float
in the ocean. Some icebergs are **HUGE**—
the size of a small state like Delaware! No
matter how big they are, they still float. Ice
always floats in water.

FLOATING ICE

CALVE — break off

GLACIER — a huge sheet of ice that forms on
land

ICEBERG — a huge chunk of ice that breaks
off the end of a glacier or an ice sheet and
floats in the ocean

Look carefully at those ice cubes.
Do you notice anything?

FLOATING ICE

FLOATING ICE

That's right! They float! That might not
seem like a big deal, but it is just one of
the reasons that water is amazing!

ICE SHELF - a thick, floating platform of ice
SEA ICE - ice that forms from the saltwater of
 the ocean

FLOATING ICE

FLOATING ICE

At the North Pole and South Pole, there are many examples of floating ice. In places like Antarctica and Greenland, **glaciers** can slowly move out over the ocean water and float there. When this happens, we call the floating ice an **ice shelf**.

Ice water. Photo
 courtesy of iStockphoto.

Have you ever put ice cubes
 into a glass of water?
 What happens?



FLOATING ICE

Right again! The ice cubes take up more room in the tray than the liquid water did!



Photo courtesy of Alastair Rae, Flickr.
Polar Bear Mother and Cubs.

It's good for all of us that
water is so special!



FLOATING ICE

FLOATING ICE

At the North Pole, a layer of **sea ice** floats over the deep ocean. Animals like polar bears, seals, and walruses hunt, rest, and have babies on the ice.

Ice. Photo courtesy
of stock.xchng.

Ice is just solid water. When
liquid water gets cold enough,
it freezes and becomes a solid.

FLOATING ICE

FLOATING ICE

Think about making ice cubes.
You put water into a tray and
place it in the cold freezer. Wait
a while and you have ice cubes.