

Ask Me About Physical Changes of Matter!

Today, an instructor from the Discovery Museum in Acton visited my classroom and led a program about physical changes of matter. We explored three states of matter: solid, liquid and gas. I saw some really “cool” stuff as matter changed from one form to another. Ask me how dry ice can be used to inflate a balloon or what happens when that same balloon is put into liquid nitrogen.

Do you know how a banana can be used to hammer a nail into a block of wood? Let me tell you all about it.

Explore further with me by trying the experiment below.

Chilly Treat

Try this tasty experiment at home to see how a liquid can become a solid.

What you need:

- 1/2 cup flavored milk
- 2 cups of crushed ice
- 1/2 cup of rock salt
- a re-sealable plastic sandwich bag
- a 1 gallon re-sealable plastic bag
- pair of winter gloves
- spoon

What you do:

1. Put the flavored milk in the small sandwich bag. Seal it carefully.
2. Add the crushed ice and rock salt to the large one gallon plastic bag.
3. Place the small bag inside the larger bag. Carefully seal the large bag.
4. Gently knead the large bag continuously. Over time you will notice some changes happening to the flavored milk in the smaller bag. Keep kneading the milk and after about five minutes it will turn into ice cream. (If your hands get too cold, use your gloves to keep them warm while you work).
5. When your ice cream appears to be ready, remove the small bag from the large one. Open it up to enjoy your chilly treat!

