

PARTY TRICK: PICK UP ICE WITH STRING

Sidle up next to someone and tell them you can pick up an ice cube (or two) without touching it. I bet you'll see a look of disbelief. In this workshop you'll see it can be done, and you can now do this party trick with confidence.

SUPPLIES:

- Ice, you may want it in a bowl to the side.
- A length of string – should be anywhere between 6 – 12 inches.
Shown: yarn
- A glass of water, about $\frac{3}{4}$ full.
- Salt



PROCEDURE:

Set the glass of water in front of you and the ice to the side. Take one ice cube and place it in the glass of water. This is the time when you'd make any grand announcements at a party while dangling your string over the glass.

Place one end of the string on the ice. You'll want it to make loop back once on itself if possible. It'll help the string stick to make the trick look better without too much practice.

Now, take the salt and sprinkle it on top of the string and ice, then count *slowly* backward from 10. You could also make a speech to your audience at this time to distract them from the science going on.

After you reach ten, slowly raise it by picking up the string.

SCIENCE:

The salt _____ the freezing temperature of the water.

Then, it _____ .

After that, the water _____ .

EXPERIMENT IDEAS!

How many ice cubes can you pick up with one string?

Can you use two strings at once?

What is the minimum amount of time it takes for the salt to dissolve and the water to freeze back over?

What is the minimum amount of salt you need for these experiments at the beginning?

Is there a point where you can get too much salt in the glass?

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