

What you need

- Some colourful natural treasures (we used leaves and berries)
- Muffin tray
- Kettle of hot water
- Jug
- String or ribbon
- Freezer

How does it work?

To make your ice decorations crystal clear use recently boiled water. Gases (mainly nitrogen and oxygen) dissolved in water form small bubbles when it freezes. The trapped bubbles make the ice look cloudy or white. Boiling water removes any air dissolved in it, producing clear ice. Don't worry if your ice decorations look a bit cloudy, though – the insides of the ornaments will slowly be revealed as the ice melts around them.



Add a loop of string or ribbon and put the tray into the freezer. Wait at least eight hours before taking the tray out of the freezer.

Scientists call all ice on Earth the cryosphere. This includes glaciers, permafrost, the ice caps of Antarctica and the Arctic, and the frozen parts of the ocean.



Explore outdoors to find natural objects to encase in ice. Berries, and colourful leaves work well. Leave enough food for local wildlife.



Arrange your items in a muffin tray. Boil the kettle and leave the water to cool in a jug. Carefully pour warm water into the moulds.



Run the tray under warm water to loosen your frozen creations. Hang them outside and leave any thawed berries for the birds.

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