LET'S GO ICE FISHING!
LEARN HOW SALT MELTS ICE BY “FISHING” FOR ICE CUBES

Episode: “A Jump to Remember” (11 min.)
Nature Cat is trying to get into the Animal Book of World Records as a champion animal snow ski jumper. But there is just one slight problem: there is no snow on the ground on this winter’s day! When all seems lost, the gang has an idea – can they create their own snow? Tally ho!

Episode curriculum goal: For snow to fall, you need the right amount of moisture and freezing temperatures.
Clips on PBSKids.org: “We're Making it Snow!”
*To view clips, visit PBSKids.org/video, click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

Goal of Activity:
Learn about the properties of ice and salt with this quick and fun science experiment.

The Basics:
Number of children: Any number. Younger children may need help from an adult.
Space: A table with clear workspace.
Time: Approx. 5 minutes.

What You'll Need:
- One cup of water for each child
- 1-2 ice cubes for each cup
- Salt
- A six-inch piece of string for each child
- Table covering to protect workspace
Preparation (before children arrive):
- Prepare the space as you would for any craft activity or project. Cover table to protect workspace and lay out materials.

Tally Ho! What to do:
- Place the ice cubes in the cup and fill it with water. The ice will float on top.
- Try to “fish” for an ice cube with the string by dipping the string into the cup. Can you “catch” any ice cubes with your string? (It won’t work.)
- Now place the string in the water so that it lies across the tops of the ice cubes.
- Sprinkle a generous amount of salt on the ice and string. Wait for 1-2 minutes.
- Pull the string out and see what you caught!

Onward and Yonward! Take it Further:
Things to talk about:
- Ask children why they think the string stuck to the ice cubes. Sprinkling salt on the ice causes the ice to start to melt into water before freezing again. As the water on the surface of the ice cube refreezes, the string gets trapped inside, making it stick to the ice.
- Ask children if they have ever seen salt sprinkled on the road or sidewalks after a snowstorm. Why do we do this? How does the salt protect us from slipping on the ice?

Look in a Book:
To learn more about ice, check your local library for books like these: