

How To...

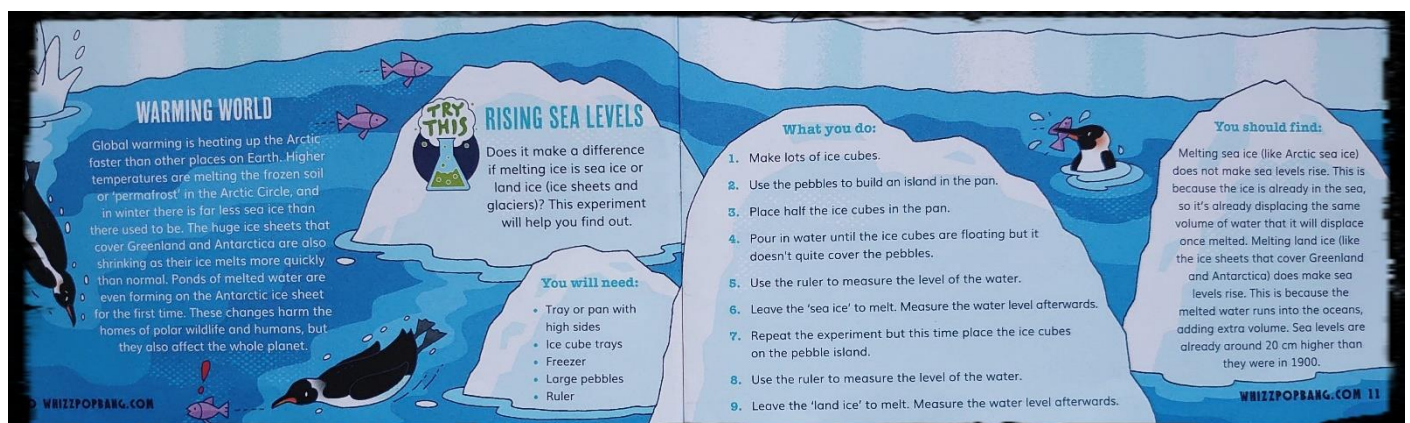
Day 2: Melting Ice Caps

Investigate global warming and melting ice with this freeeeeezzzing experiment from the 'Polar Science' edition of Whizz Pop Bang Magazine.

How will these changes affect the planet?

Instructions

1. Make lots of ice cubes.
2. Use pebbles to build an island in a tray or pan.
3. Place half the ice cubes in the pan.
4. Pour in water until the ice cubes are floating but it doesn't quite cover the pebbles.
5. Use the ruler to measure the level of the water.
6. Leave the 'sea ice' to melt. Measure the water level afterwards.
7. Repeat the experiment but this time place the ice cubes on the pebble island.
8. Use the ruler to measure the level of the water.
9. Leave the 'land ice' to melt. Measure the water level afterwards.



What should happen?

Melting sea ice (like Arctic sea ice) does not make sea levels rise. This is because the ice is already in the sea, so it's already displacing the same volume of water that it will displace once melted.

Melting land ice (like the ice sheets that cover Greenland and Antarctica) does make sea levels rise. This is because the melted water runs into the oceans, adding extra volume. Sea levels are already around 20cm higher than they were in 1900.