

LAND ICE MELT

(Level: Primary school to middle school)

SUBJECT: CONSEQUENCES OF CLIMATE CHANGE
EXPERIMENTS TO DO IN CLASS

1. THE QUESTION

“Will the melting of land-ice rise ocean levels?”

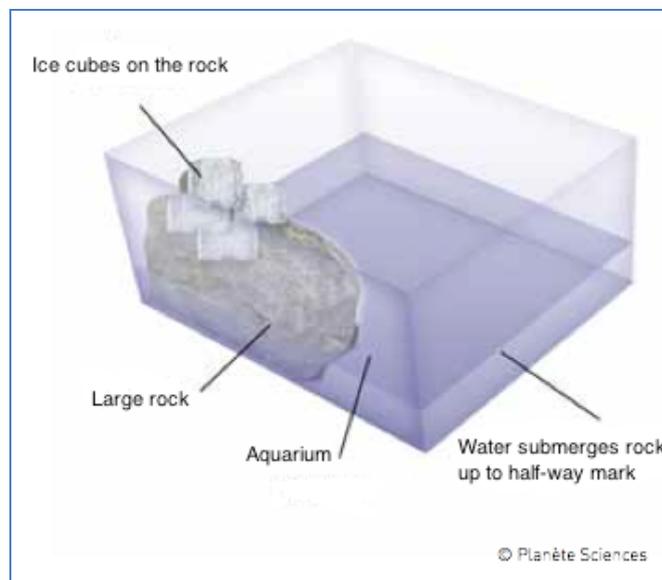
To answer this question, association Planète Sciences proposes the following experiment.

2. MATERIALS

- Ice cubes
- A salad bowl or aquarium
- 1 large rock
- Water

3. EXPERIMENT

1. Put the rock into the salad bowl or aquarium, and place the ice cubes on top of the rock.
2. Pour water into the recipient, submerging half the rock. On the recipient, mark the level of the water with a felt pen before the ice cubes start to melt.
3. Let the ice cubes melt. Has the level of water in the recipient risen?



4. GOING FURTHER

In the Experiment “Melting Pack Ice” we saw that the melting ice pack does not raise ocean levels. In contrast, melting land glaciers like those on Greenland or Antarctica (the Antarctic is a continent, but the Arctic is not!) play an important role in rising sea levels.

In reality, land ice comes from snowfall on the continent, which after compaction, turns into ice. Once melted, this water adds to the level of ocean water.

This experiment was designed by the association Planète Sciences.