

# Ice Suncatcher: *Outdoor Activity*

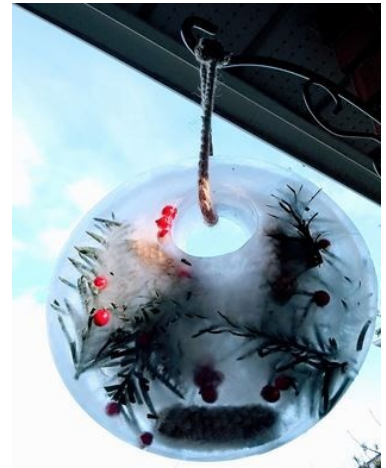
## Objective:

To observe the natural world in the winter time.

To discover the way nature changes in the winter months.

## Supplies:

- Paper plate, plastic lid, Bundt pan, or other container
- Collection of small, natural objects
- Ribbon or yarn
- Water



## Method:

1. Chose a container(s) to use so you know how many items to collect.
2. Head outside to collect natural objects. Try to only collect items that will decompose and are safe for animals. Avoid plastic, marbles, coins, etc. Look for smaller items that fit inside your chosen container and will remain in the ice when frozen. Ideas include pine needles, leaves, flowers, twigs, pebbles, acorns, pine cones, seeds, orange or lemon slices, nuts, berries, etc.
3. (Optional) You can also pick-up a small bouquet of flowers from the grocery store to use petals for added color and texture.
4. Now add water to your container. Think about making it relatively shallow so that light can shine through and it's not too heavy when frozen.
5. Next, add the natural materials. They can be gently arranged to make a design or pattern. Remember they might shift slightly.



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## Suncatcher Continued

### Method continued:

6. Now freeze it! You can leave it outside to freeze if temperatures permit or put in your freezer.
7. Pro Tip: Freezing your ribbon or string in the ice to hang the suncatcher will cause it to fall quickly as it melts. It's better to have a hole in the center such as using a Bundt pan shape. The ribbon or string can be thread through the center and tied in a knot for easy hanging.
8. Pro Tip: If you chose a paper container, use a little non-stick cooking spray to ensure the suncatcher releases easily.
9. Once it's completely frozen, hang outside on a tree or shrub and observe it slowly melt and change.

### Further Suggestions:

- Add a few drops of food coloring to add interest.
- Try boiling the water before freezing it. What do you notice?
- Observe your suncatcher every 5 to 10 minutes. Record the time and the changes you notice. Did it melt quickly? What items fell first? Compare different materials and different weather conditions.

Source: Run Wild my Child, <https://runwildmychild.com/frozen-suncatchers/>



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