

Nat Theo Club

FIELD NOTES

ISSUE #99



Ice

FROZEN WATER

Water can be liquid (like the water we drink), solid (like the ice cubes inside our water), or gas (water vapor). Water is inside every living thing, and all living things need water.

Water gets bigger as it freezes. It expands by around 9%, meaning solid ice takes up more space than liquid water. Water seems simple, made of only two basic ingredients, but God created it to keep everything alive and take many forms, from vast oceans, to snowflakes, to frozen lakes.

Remember to always be safe around frozen water and ask an adult before going on ice.



HAVE YOU EVER SEEN A FROZEN LAKE?

Last week, my family enjoyed an afternoon ice skating on a frozen alpine lake in Rocky Mountain National Park. Although the day was warm, the sun was bright, and the ice on top was getting slushy, the ice itself was nearly a foot thick, telling us it was safe to skate. My husband grew up ice fishing and playing on frozen lakes. He knows a lot about ice safety and how to check if the ice is thick enough to walk on. I always ask him to check the ice before our family goes out to play on it.

We live near a small lake that freezes over for a short time each winter, and I love watching the water freeze and refreeze, changing throughout the season. In the evenings, after the sun has set and temperatures begin dropping, we hear an eerie sound—an echoing boom rolling across the frozen lake. As temperatures change throughout the day, ice expands and contracts. As the air cools after sunset, the ice begins changing, and tension can cause a crack to race through the ice, releasing energy as a booming sound. This sound used to alarm me, as I thought the ice was breaking. Now I understand that the cracking boom is often making space for more ice and can mean the ice is getting stronger. This eerie sound has become a beautiful melody chorusing through our winter evenings.

The booming sound that expanding and contracting ice makes is sometimes called "ice singing." Ice is not alive, and yet it makes a beautiful sound as it expands and contracts. Even things in nature that are not alive praise God, not by actually singing, but by reflecting His goodness and beauty. Psalm 148 talks about things like the sun and moon, water, mountains, lightning, and snow praising God. These things are not alive, and yet they showcase God's splendor, just as a fine piece of art reflects the creativity of its artist. Ice doesn't actually sing, but the booming of its expansion can remind us to praise God and ask him to always be expanding and growing our faith.