

Putting the Ice in Hockey

Lesson Title: Putting the Ice in Hockey

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Have you ever slipped on ice or tried to pick up an ice cube only to have it slip out of your fingers? Imagine what the sport of hockey and ice-skating would be like if ice was not as slippery as it is. What do you think causes ice to be slippery? What happens to the ice in hockey arenas as the temperature changes?

While these are questions that scientists have explored for a long time, you may be surprised to learn that it has only been in recent years that they have discovered the unique properties of ice that make it slippery and have revised some of their old theories.

Explore the Science of Hockey <http://www.exploratorium.edu/hockey/index.html>, on The Exploratorium website, to understand more about what makes ice slippery.

As you explore the website, answer the questions below.

1. Describe the difference between “fast ice” and “slow ice.”



2. Which kind of ice do hockey players seem to prefer? Why?

3. Where are the hockey arenas located where the ice is better? Why?

4. How does the ice differ for hockey and figure skating?

