

# What Melts in the Sun?



Sun

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Preschoolers  
2.5 - 4 years

Is there a better place to spend a hot summer day than outside?! This activity is a great way to explore what will melt in the sun and why. The possibilities are endless and children will want to do this activity over and over again!

## Learning Outcomes

### Domain:

Cognitive

### Indicator:

Asking questions that can be answered through observation

### Skills:

Questioning



## Materials

- Muffin tin
- Random objects from around the home!
- Cupcake liners (optional)
- Magnifying glass (optional)



## Instructions

**Step 1:** Have your child pick out 12 random objects from around the home that you don't mind melting. They can be food objects, toys, nuts and bolts, nature, ice, you name it - add it to the collection!

**Step 2:** Place the optional cupcake liners in the muffin tin if you don't want it to get damaged. Then, place each object in one of the circles in the tin. Have your child predict what will happen to each of the objects. Will they melt? Stay the same? Get really hot?

**Step 3:** Place your tray of goodies in a sunny spot. This can be inside or outside! If you have a magnifying glass, use this to make the objects melt faster.

**Step 4:** Check on the tray after a couple of hours — what do you notice about each object?



## Age Adjustments

**For older preschoolers:** Have older children explain their hypothesis for each object as to whether it'll melt or not.

**For younger toddlers:** Objects (especially metal objects) may get hot! Keep an eye out on little ones touching the objects while they're in the sun as they may be hot to the touch!



## Playful Questions

- Why did X melt and not Y?
- What would happen to our bodies if we were outside in the sun for a few hours?
- What would happen if we left the tray outside, not in the direct sun?
- What is in the chocolate that made it melt?