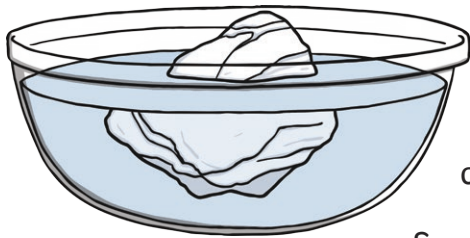


Why Does an Iceberg Float?

An iceberg is a mass of ice that has broken off part of a glacier and floats out to sea. Although most icebergs are found in the ocean, they are made up of fresh water since a glacier is frozen snow and rain. Frozen snow and rain creates ice.

Just before an iceberg is formed, part of a glacier needs to break off. This glacial ice then falls into the ocean to form an iceberg. Ice is made up of very fine crystals. These crystals take up more space, and as a result expand. This expansion results in the floatation of the ice.

A typical iceberg shows approximately one eighth of its total mass above the water. This means that the other seven eighths of it are under the surface. This can be very dangerous to boats since only a little of the iceberg can be seen.



Icebergs are found mostly in Antarctic and Arctic waters. Wind and ocean currents move icebergs away from their starting points. During this stage, icebergs slowly begin to melt only once the temperature rises above zero degrees Celsius.

Some people have suggested towing icebergs to places where water is scarce and melting them there. The water can then be used for drinking and irrigation.

