

Exploration of Insulators and Conductors in First Class

As the First Class girls studied Tom Crean's trip to Antarctic, they wondered how the great explorers kept warm in the very cold temperatures. That got us thinking about insulators and conductors. The girls hypothesized about different materials and chose to investigate newspaper and tinfoil. To ensure that they conducted a 'fair' test, they measured (maths!!) equal amounts of water into three plastic gloves, tied a knot in each glove and froze them overnight. Next day they removed the frozen 'hands' from the freezer and wrapped one in newspaper, another in tinfoil and the third was left unwrapped. All three were placed in the same location away from direct light and heating sources (at the same room temperature). The girls found that the frozen 'hand' wrapped in tinfoil melted faster than the one wrapped in newspaper. The unwrapped one melted very quickly. They concluded that the tinfoil was a better conductor of heat than the newspaper and it transferred the heat of the room to the frozen 'hand' inside.



