

A Wonderful World of Knowledge...Know More About It

Episode #9: Why Ice Floats

Tonight's question is a bit of a puzzler. "Why does ice float?"

As both ice and water are made of the same substance, it seems contrary that one would be "lighter", but the key lies in density.

Imagine a glass filled to the brim with water. Now think of that glass as a bus and the water as the people in it.

Because water is a liquid, its molecules can slide into every available bit of space, like people jammed into the bus, with some people sitting in others' laps and some standing in the aisle.

To create ice it's as if the people on the bus were made to sit one in each seat. And all of the others had to leave the bus.

Less people means less weight per bus.

Similarly, less water molecules in a glass of ice means ice is lighter than water.

And that's why ice floats.

