

* 3.1. Reversible and irreversible changes

Reversible changes

You will need:
ice cubes, a saucer and a watch.

Place the ice cubes in the sun or another warm place for five minutes.

What has happened to the ice after five minutes?

What causes the ice to change?

What will happen to the ice if you put it back in the freezer? Why?



In a warm place, the solid ice becomes liquid water. When you put the ice back in the freezer, it becomes a solid again. We say that the changes are **reversible** because we can change solid ice back to liquid water and liquid water back to solid ice. Heat causes the ice to melt. When the water loses heat and cools, it becomes solid again. This diagram shows phase changes between ice and water.

