

INSTA SNOW

This resource can be used to support the areas of Changing Materials throughout the school from early Years to Year 6 and also to support the area of forces. It is a polymer which when water is added increases in volume many times to look and feel like snow. See below for some ideas of how to use in the classroom.

How to use

Encourage the children to inspect and feel the granules perhaps using a digital microscope. Ask them to **predict** what will happen if they add water to it. Then place in a transparent plastic cup and add water to see what happens. It can also be used to develop Working scientifically strand of the science curriculum – **Observation over time**. Remember it can be left out to dry and used over and over.

Suggestions

- Put a full pot into a water tray for the younger children to add water to and make snowmen . **What happens if you put it the snowmen in the freezer ?**
- Ask the older children to **add different amounts of water – how will it change ?**
- Ask the children to **research where these superabsorbent polymers are used** eg. oli spills nappies
- Ask the children to **design an investigation to see if the wet Insta snow can be returned to its original state** (Yes it can – it's a reversible process)
- Ask the children if they think the snow they see in films/ winter Olympics is always real ? Get them to do some **secondary research** to see if this false snow is the same as Insta snow.
- Ask them to **discuss the similarities and differences between real snow and Insta snow** - the could look at **temperature**, does it **freeze/ melt** like real snow? Could they make a snowman/snow balls
- They could set up winter Olympic course and see if things went faster over the Insta snow or just the desk top. **How does the Insta snow affect friction ?**
- The children can just use it to make Christmas scenes and add a little sparkle to the festive season whilst **developing vocabulary to describe it**.
- Why not just listen to the children as they play with it and see what they have to say about its amazing properties ?