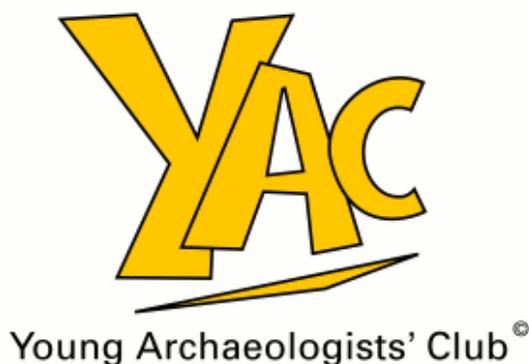


YAC Attack!: Lost Wax Casting

This simple experiment will allow you to make your own lost wax cast shapes – using ice cubes and chocolate!

You will need:

- Air drying clay
- Ice cubes
- Cling film
- Drinking straws
- Chocolate
- Sticky tape
- Piping bag and nozzle
- Microwave
- Spoon
- Plastic bowl
- An adult to help!



Method:

1. Hold a drinking straw alongside your ice cube, and wrap both tightly in cling film. When the ice cube melts the water will need to drain out through the straw, leaving a hollow space for your chocolate
3. Carefully seal the straw in place using sticky tape. It is important that the straw does not wobble!
4. Cover your ice cube completely with air drying clay, leaving the straw sticking through.
5. Your finished mould should look a bit like this...
6. Turn your mould upside down over a sink or plastic bowl. Wait for the clay to harden, the ice cube to melt and the water to drain away through the straw.
7. Once your mould has hardened, and the water has drained to leave a hollow space, it is time to melt your chocolate. It is easiest to use a microwave to melt your chocolate, but you can also melt it using a saucepan on a stove. Make sure you get an adult to help, as the chocolate will get quite hot.
8. Now for the tricky bit! You need to fill your moulds with the melted chocolate. You need to squeeze it down the straws using a piping bag. Be very careful and take your time. Keep going until you notice chocolate beginning to fill up the straw too – this will mean your mould is full. Again, it is a good idea to get an adult to help you.
9. Leave your chocolate to harden inside the mould overnight. It will then be time to break open your mould!
10. Unwrap the cling film to reveal your chocolate shape, which has been created using the lost wax process!

Why not try?

Using shaped ice cubes to make more interesting moulds?

You can buy ice cube trays in different shapes – such as stars – in most cookery shops.