Avatar: Freezing Sea Water

Because seawater contains salt, it freezes at negative two degrees Celsius instead of zero degrees like pure water. As the water freezes and leaves the salt behind, really dense salty water forms right under the ice. The opposite happens when the sea ice melts in the spring. The melting ice dilutes the salt in the water. There are many types of sea ice ranging from small ice floes to pieces of glacier fallen into the sea called icebergs. The next activity will help you discover how the melting of sea ice affects the water level of the oceans.