

## ICE! The Polar Express

## 1

## Introduce the Article and Key Vocabulary

Talk with students about what they will learn from the article.  
Introduce vocabulary to them using the descriptive teaching method.

**Example:** We will be talking about the Gaylord National Resort in Maryland and their holiday event called ICE! ICE! has a different theme each year and this year's theme is The Polar Express animated movie. The Polar Express is about a boy who travels to the North Pole on Christmas Eve. ICE! is indoors but the temperature is very cold because there are ice sculptures inside. A team of 40 sculptors carve the ice sculptures about The Polar Express. The sculptors traveled from Harbin, China. They use special tools to carve the ice sculptures to look like a train conductor, waiters, Santa Claus, and elves. People can walk through 14 scenes in the hotel. ICE! also includes arches, slides and tunnels. You can watch the sculptors carve too! It will end on January 4.

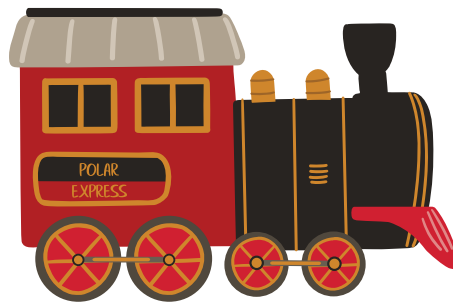
## 2

## Read the Article While you TAAP

As you read the article with students, remember to TAAP: **T**alk about it, **A**sk a question, **A**cknowledge via response, and **P**ropel the conversation or **P**redict!  
(View the TAAP resource on the AAC Language Lab to learn more about the TAAP strategy!)

## Sample TAAP words/phrases:

Talk About It	Ask Questions	Acknowledge via Response	Propel the Conversation or Predict
make sculptures cold/ ice art/ artist	Have you ever made a sculpture? What does an ice sculpture look like to you? What do you think about this display? Do you have a favorite character from The Polar Express?	Great answer Nicely done nnnICE!! good job Let's see	Tell me more What else? Are you sure? What happens next?



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### Talk About What you Learned

Summarize the article with students and talk about what they learned. Ask open-ended questions to discuss what everyone thought, and to get them thinking about and reflecting about what they read.

#### Sample questions for discussion:

What did you learn about ICE! The Polar Express display at the Gaylord National Resort? Why do you think it is so cold inside that you need a parka/ coat? Have you ever seen an ice sculpture before? How do you think the artists learned how to carve ice to make sculptures? What is the biggest ice display at this event? How big are some of these ice sculptures? How many people does it take to make these pieces of ice?

### Discussion for Comprehension

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After reading and summarizing the article with students, use descriptive testing to further discuss the students' understanding of the article. Pose questions in a way that allows the student to answer the question using any word on their device.

#### Sample Descriptive Testing Questions and responses:

Tell me about ICE! The Polar Express	What do you need to carve ice and make sculptures?	Tell me about the display of The Polar Express
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>at a hotel every year in November and December</li> <li>cold hotel/ place to keep them cold</li> <li>people see ice made into things</li> <li>many people go there</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>you need tools to cut away the ice</li> <li>chain saw</li> <li>chippers</li> <li>hand saw</li> <li>knife</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>boy goes to north pole</li> <li>he is on a train</li> <li>waiters give hot chocolate</li> <li>Santa and elves meet you on the train</li> </ul>