Tip of the Iceberg

If all the icebergs in the seas were to melt, would the sea level rise? This very simple experiment will give us the answer, and is based on a very important compound chemists study—water!

What to do: Place as many ice cubes as you can into a glass; then fill the glass to the brim with warm water. Wait.

What happens: When the ice cubes melt the water does not overflow.

Why: The ice cubes simply displaced the water in the glass, or the amount of ice that melted was exactly equal to the mass of the ice cubes below the water. Like the ice cubes in the glass, the main part of an iceberg is under water. If all the ice were to melt, as did the ice cubes in our experiment, the sea level would remain the same.