

MISSISSIPPI SCIENCE READER

Think About ...


What Is Matter?

The world is full of many different kinds of things. Think about buildings, trees, animals, water, soil, and air. All these things are alike in one way. They are all made of **matter**. Matter is anything that takes up space. Everything, even your own body, is made of matter.

All matter has **physical properties**. A physical property tells how something looks, feels, smells, tastes, or sounds. Size, color, shape, texture, and weight are physical properties.


Mass is a physical property. Mass is the amount of matter in an object. You can measure mass. The heavier something is, the more mass it has.

You can use a balance to compare the mass of two objects. Put one object in each pan. Which pan sinks lower? The object in that pan has more mass.



All matter is made of tiny particles called **atoms**. Atoms are too small to see with your eyes. Millions of atoms could fit on the head of a pin. Atoms are the building blocks of matter. Different kinds of atoms join together to make different kinds of matter.

Matter is usually found in one of three **states**, or forms. Matter can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas.



Matter can be a solid. Rocks, toys, and cars are solids.

Matter can be a liquid. Water, milk, and syrup are liquids.


Matter can be a gas. Air is made of gases. The moving air turning the windmill blades is made of gases.

What Are Solids, Liquids, and Gases?

Solids

A book is a solid. So is your desk. So is a crayon. A **solid** has a shape of its own. The particles in a solid are packed closely together. They can move only back and forth in place. That is why a solid usually keeps its shape.

A solid takes up a certain amount of space. Size is a physical property of a solid. One way to measure the size of a solid is to use a ruler. What are some other ways you could measure the size of a solid?




particles in a solid

Liquids

Water, milk, and honey are all liquids. A **liquid** has no shape of its own. Particles in a liquid are spaced fairly close together. They are arranged loosely. They can slide over each other.

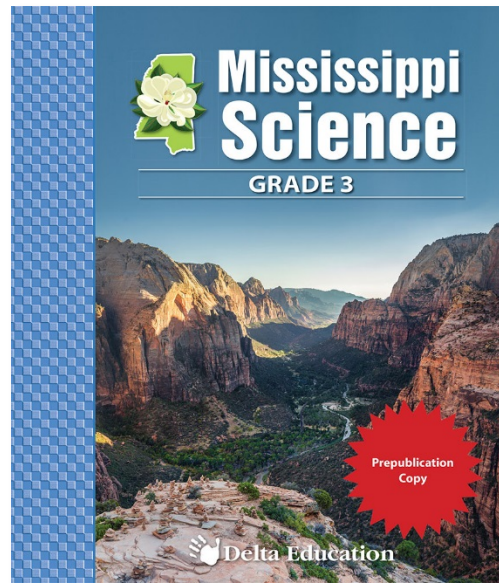
A liquid flows to fit the shape of its container. A liquid's shape changes if you pour it into a different container.

The **volume** of a liquid is how much space it takes up. You can measure the volume of a liquid. Volume is a physical property. The volume of a liquid does not change when you pour it into a different container.



particles in a liquid

The Mississippi Science Student Reader features selected readings from informational texts published by Delta Education. These engaging readings look at science concepts, real-world phenomena, biographies of scientists, and more. The Mississippi Science Teacher's Guide includes detailed support for teaching literacy skills through science.



MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS STANDARDS FOR SCIENCE

Mississippi Science	Mississippi Standards
Grade K	L.K.1A.2; L.K.2.3; P.K.5A.1
Grade 1	L.1.1.5; L.1.2.2; L.1.3B.1; E.1.9B.1; E.1.9B.2 E.1.9B.2; E.1.10.1; E.1.10.2
Grade 2	L.2.1.1; L.2.1.2; L.2.1.3; L.2.1.4
Grade 3	P.3.5.1; P.3.5.2; P.3.5.3; E.3.7A.1
Grade 4	L.4.1.1; L.4.1.2; L.4.1.3
Grade 5	P.5.5A.1; P.5.6.1; P.5.6.2; P.5.6.3; P.5.6.4

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