

Name: _____

Some Like it Hot

Have you ever seen a school bus that was painted white on the roof? White reflects the sun's rays, and painting the roof white helps keep the bus cooler. The color white is a combination of all possible visible light and so reflects a great deal of energy wavelengths coming down, including those from the sun. Darker colors absorb heat, so wearing a black ski jacket in the winter may help keep you warmer.

Directions: Using a digital laser thermometer, record the temperatures of different colored items. Items should be the same material but different colors. For example, a black piece of construction paper and white piece of construction paper, or yellow, red, and blue pieces of felt. All materials should begin at the same temperature.

Place items in direct sunlight or under a heat lamp. Allow 10 minutes for heat absorption. Record your observations. What did you notice?

My Data

Temperature of each at beginning

Temperature after ten minutes

My Observations