

Solids, Liquids, & Gases

Cross-Curricular Focus: Physical Science



All things on Earth are made up of matter. Matter exists in three different forms. These forms are **solid**, **liquid**, and **gas**. Matter looks and acts differently in each of its forms.

Matter in its solid form has a definite shape. It also takes up a certain amount of space. Under a microscope, you can see the particles. They look squished together. The particles do not have very much room to move around. All they can do is vibrate, like a cell phone does when you turn off the ringer.

Matter in its liquid form takes up a certain amount of space. But liquid does not have a definite shape. It shapes itself like the container it is in. Under a microscope, its tiniest particles slide past each other. They have room to move around. That's what lets them change their shape to match the container.

Matter in its gas form does not take up a certain amount of space. It does not have a definite shape, either. Its tiniest particles have lots of space in between them. They bounce around very fast!

Name: _____

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don't forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What are the three forms of matter?

2) Which form of matter has tiny particles that vibrate against each other, but do not have room to slide?

3) Which form of matter has the most space in between its particles?

4) Which form of matter has tiny particles that slide past each other?

5) What is matter?
