

Solids, Liquids, & Gases

Cross-Curricular Focus: Physical Science



Matter is the “stuff” that all the things on Earth are made of. It can exist 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 definite amount of space. Under a microscope, its tiniest particles look squished together without 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 definite amount of space, but does not have a definite shape. It takes on the shape of whatever container you pour it into. Under a microscope, a liquid’s tiniest particles slide past each other. They have room to move around, and that’s what lets them change their shape to match the container they are in.

Matter in its gas form does not take up a definite amount of space. It does not have a definite shape, either. Its tiniest particles have so much space in between them that they bounce around really 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? _____
