

Can It Reflect Light?

What types of objects or materials can reflect light? Put an X next to the things you think can reflect light.

- ____ water
- ____ gray rock
- ___leaf
- ____ mirror
- ____ glass
- ____sand
- ____ potato skin
- ____wax paper
- ____ tomato soup
- ____crumpled paper
- ____shiny metal
- ____ the Moon ____rusty nail ____clouds ____soil ____wood

____ rough cardboard

____dull metal

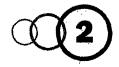
____red apple

milk
bedsheet
brand new penny
old tarnished penny

____smooth sheet of aluminum foil

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or the reasoning you used to decide if something can reflect light.

covering Student Ideas in Science



Apple in the Dark

Imagine you are sitting at a table with a red apple in front of you. Your friend closes the door and turns off all the lights. It is totally dark in the room. There are no windows in the room or cracks around the door. No light can enter the room.

Circle the statement you believe best describes how you would see the apple in the dark:

- A You will not see the red apple, regardless of how long you are in the room.
- **B** You will see the red apple after your eyes have had time to adjust to the darkness.
- **C** You will see the apple after your eyes have had time to adjust to the darkness, but you will not see the red color.
- **D** You will see only the shadow of the apple after your eyes have had time to adjust to the darkness.
- **E** You will see only a faint outline of the apple after your eyes have had time to adjust to the darkness.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.

	· · ·	
		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
. ···		
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		



Birthday Candles

Imagine you are at a birthday party. A birthday cake with candles is put on a table in the middle of a room. The room is very large. You are standing at the end of the room, 10 meters away from the cake. You can see the candles. Circle the reponse that best describes how far the light from the candles traveled in order for you to see the flames.

A The light stays on the candle flames.

B The light travels a few centimeters from the candle flames.

C The light travels about 1 meter.

D The light travels about halfway to where you are standing.

E The light travels all the way to where you are standing.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.

	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
		· · · · · · ·	
· · ·			
:			
			•.
· · ·			· · · · ·
			• • •
<u> </u>			



Making Sound

All of the objects listed below make sounds. Put an X next to the objects you think involve vibrations in producing sound.

guitar strings		
drum		Va) sm
dripping faucet		
barking dog		
piano		Cres A
screeching brakes		
radio speaker	drum	
crumpled paper	wind	hammer
car engine	wood saw	flute
chirping cricket	clapped hands	thunderstorm
singer	bubbling water	two stones rubbed together
popped balloon	rustling leaves	snapped fingers

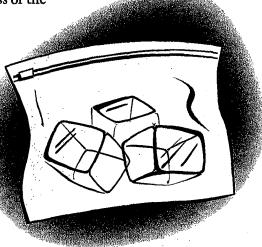
Explain your thinking. What "rule" or reasoning did you use to decide which objects involve vibrations in producing sound?

Ice Cubes in a Bag

You are having an argument with your friend about what happens to the mass when matter changes from one form to another. To prove your idea, you put three ice cubes in a sealed bag and record the mass of the ice in the bag. You let the ice cubes melt completely. Ten minutes later you record the mass of the water in the bag. Which of the following best describes the result? Circle your prediction.

A The mass of the water in the bag will be less than the mass of the ice in the bag.

- **B** The mass of the water in the bag will be more than the mass of the ice in the bag.
- **C** The mass of the water in the bag will be the same as the mass of the ice cubes in the bag.



Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.

•		·. · ·				
	·					i
	$\frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}{2} \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{1}$	1			· · ·	
				· · · ·	······································	
				· · ·	· <u>·</u>	
			·	· · · · ·		
•	<u> </u>		·······			
•	·					
	1. A.					
					· · ·	
	······					
					1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	



Lemonade

A glass of unsweetened lemonade weighs 255 grams. A spoonful of sugar is weighed before stirring it into the lemonade. The sugar weighs 25 grams. Predict how much you think the sweetened lemonade will weigh after you stir in the sugar.

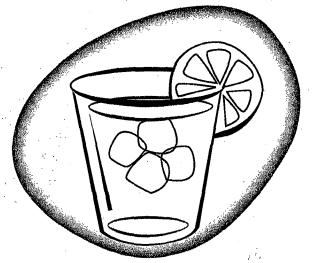
- Please circle the best answer.
- A It will weigh slightly less than 255 grams but more than 230 grams.

B It will weigh slightly more than 255 grams but less than 280 grams.

C It will weigh 230 grams.

- **D** It will weigh 280 grams.
- **E** It will weigh the same: 255 grams.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.



. .

Uncovering	Student	ideas in	Science
------------	---------	----------	---------

Cookie Crumbles

Imagine you have a whole cookie. You break the cookie into tiny pieces and crumbs. You weigh all of the pieces and crumbs. How do you think

the weight of the whole cookie compares to the total weight of all the cookie crumbs? Circle the best answer.

A The whole cookie weighs more than all of the cookie crumbs.

B All of the cookie crumbs weigh more than the whole cookie.

C The whole cookie and all of the cookie crumbs weigh the same.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.

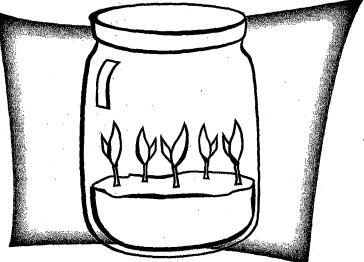


Seedlings in a Jar

Imagine you have a sealed jar containing five bean seeds, air, and a moist paper towel. Nothing can get in or out of the jar. The total mass of the jar and its contents is 500 grams.

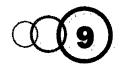
Imagine the same jar with its contents 12 days later. During that time the jar remained sealed. Nothing could get in or out of the jar. The seeds have germinated to form 6-centimeter seedlings. The total mass of the jar and its contents after the 12 days is recorded.

Circle the statement that is the best comparison of the total mass of the jar and its contents before and after the seeds sprouted to form seedlings:



- A The total mass of the original jar with seeds will be more than the total mass of the jar with the seedlings.
- **B** The total mass of the original jar with seeds will be less than the total mass of the jar with the seedlings.
- **C** There will be no change in the total mass of the jar with seedlings after 12 days.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.

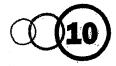


Is It Melting?

The list below involves situations that cause changes in materials. The materials are *italicized*. Put an X next to the situations in which the *italicized* materials undergo melting.

- ___ A Putting a bowl of frozen *ice cream* in the sun.
- ____ B Sawing *wood* to make sawdust.
- ____C Dissolving *salt* in water.
 - **D** Adding a *LifeSaver* candy to a glass of warm water.
- ____ E Water evaporating from a pan.
- **F** Dissolving a *sugar cube* in a cup of hot tea.
- **G** Pouring vinegar on *baking soda*.
- _____ H Sucking on a *lollipop* or other *hard candy*.
- Holding an *ice cube* in your hand.

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reasoning you used to decide if something melts.

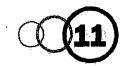


Is It Matter?

Listed below is a list of things that are considered matter and things that are not considered matter. Put an X next to each of the things that you consider to be matter.

		0 /	Wards
rocks	salt		
baby powder	Mars		
milk	Jupiter		
air	steam		
light	rotten apples		
dust	heat		
love	sound waves		
cells	water		
atoms	bacteria		
fire	oxygen	gravity	dissolved sugar
smoke	stars	magnetic force	electricity

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reason you used to decide whether something is or is not matter.



Is It Made of Molecules?

Put an X next to the things on the list that are made up of one or more molecules.

	bread		DNA			· · · ·
	protons	<u> </u>	cell membrane	1 m		
	water	· .	cloud			
-	atomic nucleus		oil	S.S.		
<u></u>	brain cell		worm	J J		T
	milk		protein			
	egg	<u> </u>	sugar		The	
	atom		flower			
	seed	. <u></u>	chromosome	blood	•	
	bacteria		leaf	air	mus	hroom
	skin		electrons	cell nucleus	fruit	

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reasoning you used to decide if something was made of molecules.

5 5 <u>5 5 5 5</u> 5



Talking About Gravity

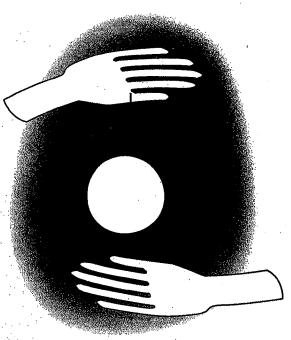
Two friends were talking about gravity.

Ben said, "Gravity needs an atmosphere or air. If there is no air or atmosphere, there will be no gravity."

Kelly said, "Gravity doesn't need an atmosphere or air. If there is no air or atmosphere, there will still be gravity."

Which friend do you agree with?_____

Describe your thinking. Explain why you agree with one friend and disagree with the other.





The Mitten Problem

Sarah's science class is investigating heat energy. They wonder what would happen

- to the temperature reading on a ther-
- mometer if they put the thermometer inside a mitten.

Sarah's group obtained two thermometers and a mitten. They put one thermometer inside the mitten and the other thermometer on the table next to the mitten. An hour later they compared the readings on

the two thermometers. The temperature in-

side the room remained the same during their experiment.

What do you think Sarah's group will discover from their investigation? Circle the response that best matches your thinking.

A The thermometer inside the mitten will have a lower temperature reading than the thermometer on the table.

B The thermometer inside the mitten will have a higher temperature reading than the thermometer on the table.

C Both thermometers will have the same temperature reading.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.

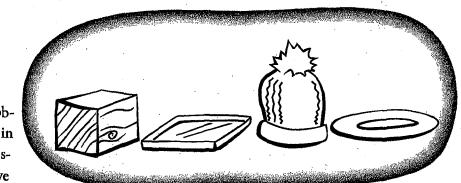


Objects and Temperature

Taz and Kyle are comparing the temperature readings of four different objects:

- block of wood
- metal tray
- wool hat
- glass plate

They place the objects on a table in their science classroom and leave them overnight. A



thermometer is attached to each object. The next day they record the temperature of each object at the same time.

Put an X next to the statement that best describes your prediction about the objects' temperature.

____ None of the objects will have the same temperature.

____ Two of the objects will have the same temperature.

_ Three of the objects will have the same temperature.

_All of the objects will have the same temperature.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.



Is It an Animal?

Which of the organisms listed are animals? Put an X next to each organism that is considered to be an animal.

____ cow ____ spider

____ mushroom

____ human

___ tree

____worm

____ tiger

. .

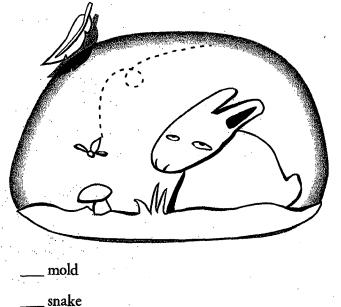
____ shark ____ starfish ____whale ____frog ____chicken

___ snail

flower

____ monkey

____beetle



. . :

an in gi

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reasoning you used to decide if something is an animal.

Uncovering Student Ideas in Science

117



Is It Living?

Listed below are examples of living (which includes once-living) and nonliving things. Put an X next to the things that could be considered living.

rock	egg bacteria		0
fire	cell	(\bigcirc)	
boy	molecule	16	0 R
wind	Sun		JIN -
rabbit	mushroom		
cloud	potato		ر ک
feather	leaf		
grass	butterfly	fossil	mitochondria
seed	pupae	hibernating bear	river
lain your thin	iking. What "rule" or	hibernating bear reasoning did you use to	· · · · ·
· · ·	iking. What "rule" or		
lain your thin	iking. What "rule" or		· · · · · ·



Is It Made of Cells?

Imagine you could examine the objects and materials listed below with a powerful microscope. This powerful microscope will allow you to see evidence of cell structure.

Put an X next to the objects or materials that are made up, or were once made up, of cells.

flowers	apples		
skin	sand	KIS	
proteins	worms	- YAC	
rocks	bacteria	人 人 し し	
milk	leaf		
bone	seeds		
lungs	water	paramecium	
hamburger	molecules	blood	chromosomes
DNA	sugar	cell membrane	saliva
calcium	chlorophyll	mushrooms	atoms

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reason you used to decide whether something is or was once made up of cells.

Uncovering Student Ideas in Science

131



Human Body Basics

Four students are working on a human body project for their science class. They cannot agree on the basic unit of structure and function in the human body where basic

life processes are carried out. These basic pro-

cesses are getting energy from food, removal of waste molecules, response to stimuli, movement, reproduction, growth, and repair. They debated their ideas as follows:

Paul's argument: Tissues are the basic unit of structure and organs are the basic unit of function.

Tia's argument: Cells are the basic unit of structure and organs are the basic unit of function.

Margy's argument: Cells are the basic unit of structure and function.

Rae's argument: Organs are the basic unit of structure and function.

Which student do you agree with? Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.



Functions of Living Things

The functions listed below are performed by living organisms. Which functions are performed by plants, animals, or both? Mark each example with a P, A, or B.

Put a **P** in front of the functions performed *only* by plants.

Put an A in front of the functions performed *only* by animals

Put a **B** in front of the functions performed by *both* plant and animals.

____ Photosynthesis (make their food)

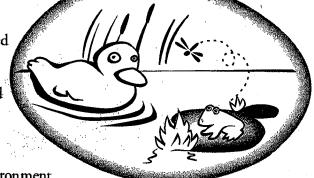
____Acquire and take in food from the environment

____ Respiration (release energy from food)

____Reproduction

____Growth

Elimination of waste products



____Storage of energy

____ Transport of materials within the organism

____Maintain a stable, internal environment

____ Response to stimuli

____Repair of damaged structures

Explain your thinking. What helped you decide whether a function is performed by a plant, animal, or both?



Wet Jeans

Sam washed his favorite pair of jeans. He hung the wet jeans on a clothesline outside. An hour later the jeans were dry.

Circle the answer that best describes what happened to the water that was in the wet jeans *an hour later*.

A It soaked into the ground.

B It disappeared and no longer exists.

C It is in the air in an invisible form.

D It moved up to the clouds.

E It chemically changed into a new substance.

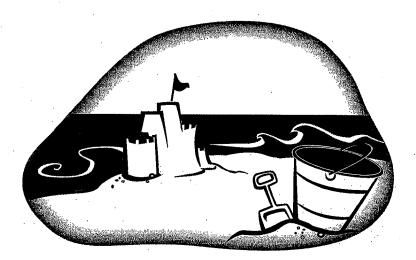
F It went up to the Sun.

G It broke down into atoms of hydrogen and oxygen.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.



Beach Sand



Three friends were walking along a beach in New England. They looked closely at the sand and noticed it was made up of tiny particles of rock. They had different ideas about where the sand came from.

Molly: "I think the sand came from distant mountains and landforms."

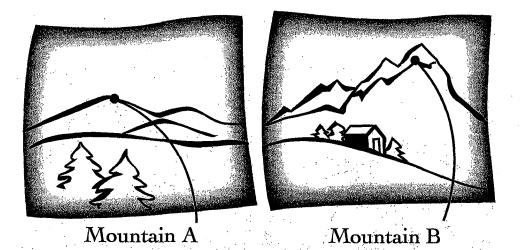
Fidel: "I think the sand came from rocks on the ocean floor."

Lynn: "I think the sand came from undersea mountains and sea floor formations."

Which friend do you agree with and why? Explain your thinking about how the sand formed *and* ended up on the beach.



Mountain Age



Mountain A is 4,800 feet tall, looks smooth and rounded, and is located in North America. Mountain B is 19,280 feet tall, looks sharp and jagged, and is located in South America. Both mountains were originally formed by the uplifting of the Earth's crust millions of years ago, are composed of similar material, and are found in similar climate conditions.

Put an X next to the statement that best describes your thinking about the age of the two different mountains based on their shape and height.

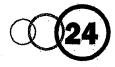
1. 1. 1. 1. 1.

_ Mountain A is probably younger than Mountain B.

_ Mountain A is probably older than Mountain B.

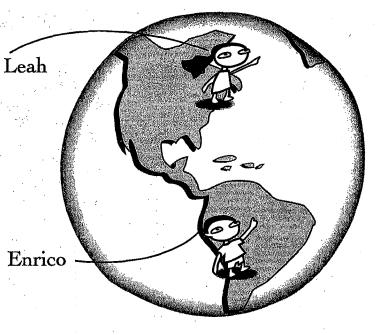
____ Mountains A and B are the same age.

Describe your thinking. Provide an explanation for your answer.



Gazing at the Moon

Enrico and Leah live in opposite hemispheres. Enrico lives in Santiago, Chile, which is in the Southern Hemisphere. Leah lives in Boston, Massachusetts, which is in the Northern Hemisphere. They both gazed at the Moon on the same evening. Enrico noticed there was a full Moon when he looked up at the sky from his location (the Southern Hemisphere). What do you predict Leah saw when she looked up in the sky from her location (the Northern Hemisphere)?



A New Moon (no part of the Moon is visible)

B Crescent Moon (a quarter of the face of the Moon is visible)

C Half Moon (half of the face of the Moon is visible)

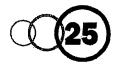
D Gibbous Moon (three-quarters of the face of the Moon is visible)

E Full Moon (the entire face of the Moon is visible)

Provide an explanation for your answer. How did you decide what the Moon would look like in the opposite hemisphere?

Uncovering Student Ideas In Science

177



Going Through a Phase

Mrs. Timmons asked her class to share their ideas about what causes the different phases of the Moon. This is what some of her students said:

Mona: The Moon lights up in different parts at different times of the month.

Jared: The phases of the Moon change according to the season of the year.

Sofia: Parts of the Moon reflect light depending on the position of the Earth in relation to the Sun and Moon.

Drew: The Earth casts a shadow that causes a monthly pattern in how much of the Moon we can see from Earth.

Trey: Different planets cast a shadow on the Moon as they revolve around the Sun.

Oofra: The shadow of the Sun blocks part of the Moon each night causing a pattern of different Moon phases.

Natasha: The clouds cover the parts of the Moon that we can't see.

Raj: The Moon grows a little bit bigger each day until it is full and then it gets smaller again. It repeats this cycle every month.

Which student do you agree with and why? Explain your thinking.



What's in the Bubbles?

Hannah is boiling water in a glass tea kettle. She notices bubbles forming on the bottom of the kettle that rise to the top and wonders what is in the bubbles. She asks her family what they think, and this is what they say:

Dad: "They are bubbles of heat."

Calvin: "The bubbles are filled with air."

Grandma: "The bubbles are an invisible form of water."

Mom: "The bubbles are empty-there is nothing inside them."

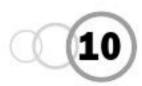
Lucy: "The bubbles contain oxygen and hydrogen that separated from the water."

Which person do you most agree with and why? Explain your thinking.



Chemical Bonds

Three students were discussing their ideas about chemical bonds. This is what they What is a said: chemical Janre: "I think a chemical bond is produced by a molecule. It is a substance bond? made up of matter that holds atoms together." Will: "I think a chemical bond is an attraction between atoms. It is not made up of matter." Leta: "I think a chemical bond is a structural part of an atom that connects it to other atoms." Which student do you most agree with and why? Explain your thinking,



Ice-Cold Lemonade

It was a hot summer day. Mattie poured herself a glass of lemonade. The lemonade was warm, so Mattie put some ice in the glass. After 10 minutes, Mattie noticed that the ice was melting and the lemonade was cold. Mattie wondered what made the lemonade get cold. She had three different ideas. Which idea do you think best explains why the lemonade got cold? Circle your answer.

- A The coldness from the ice moved into the lemonade.
- B The heat from the lemonade moved into the ice.
- C The coldness and the heat moved back and forth until the lemonade cooled off.

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reasoning you used for your answer.



Mixing Water

Melinda filled two glasses of equal size half-full with water. The water in one glass was 50 degrees Celsius. The water in the other glass was 10 degrees Celsius. She poured one glass into the other, stirred the liquid, and measured the temperature of the full glass of water.

What do you think the temperature of the full glass of water will be after the water is mixed? Circle your prediction.





Is It a Plant?

Each of the things listed below can be found living and growing in its environment. Put an X next to the things that you consider to be plants.

fern	grass	moss
vine	grasshopper	tomato
mold	flower	tree
onion	weed	bush
cactus	bacteria	mush room
cabbage	dandelion	carrot

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reasoning you used to decide if something is a plant.



Needs of Seeds

Seeds sprout and eventually grow into young plants called seedlings. Put an X next to the things you think a seed needs in order for it to sprout.

56932

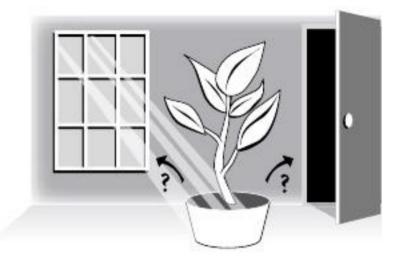
- ____ water
- ____ soil
- ____ air
- ____ food
- ____ sunlight
- ____ darkness
- ____ warmth
- ____ Earth's gravity
- ____ fertilizer

Explain your thinking. Describe the "rule" or reasoning you used to decide what a seed needs in order to sprout.



Plants in the Dark and Light

Four friends wondered how light affected the growth of plants. They decided to test their ideas using young bean plants. One set of plants was put in a dark closet for eight days. The other set of plants was put on a shelf near a sunny window for eight days. The friends then measured the height of the plants after eight days. This is what they predicted:



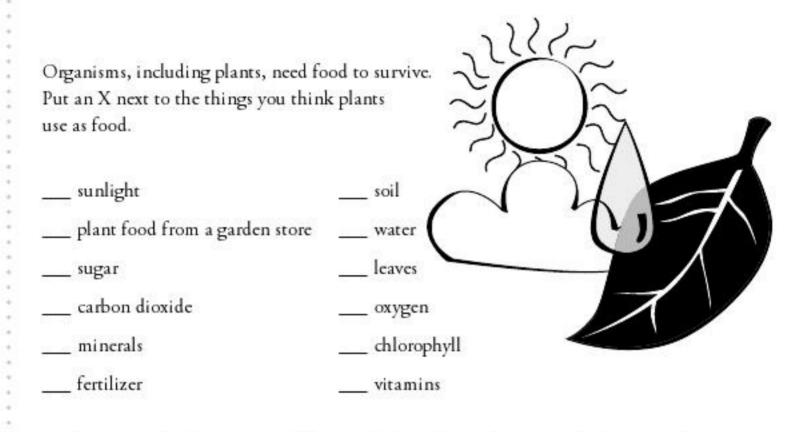
Carl:	"I think the plants in the dark closet will be the tallest."
Monique:	"I think the plants by the sunny window will be the tallest."
Jasmine:	"I think the plants will be about the same height."
Drew:	"I think the plants in the closet will stop growing and die."

Which friend do you agree with and why? Explain your thinking.

Uncovering Student Ideas in Science, Volume 2 : 25 More Formative Assessment Probes. Arlington, VA, USA: National Science Teachers Association, 2007. p 121 http://site.ebrary.com/lib/arizona/Doc?id=10192267&ppg=121 Copyright © 2007. National Science Teachers Association. All rights Reserved. May not be reproduced in any form without permission from the publisher, except fair uses permitted under U.S. or applicable copyright law.



Is It Food for Plants?



Explain your thinking. How did you decide if something on the list is food for plants?



Giant Sequoia Tree

The giant sequoia tree is one of the largest trees on earth. It starts as a small seedling and grows into an enormous tree. Five children can stretch their arms across the width of the trunk of one of the large sequoia trees!

Where did most of the matter that makes up the wood and leaves of this huge tree originally come from? Circle the best answer.

A sunlight

B water

C soil

D carbon dioxide

E oxygen

F minerals

G chlorophyll

Explain your thinking. How did you decide where most of the matter that makes up this tree came from?

