

You can think of energy as the ability to move or cause change in matter. It comes in many forms. Kinetic energy is energy that is in use, and potential energy is energy that is stored for later.



Key vocabulary

kinetic energy

Energy formed or caused by movement.

potential energy

Possible, stored energy.

chemical energy

Energy formed or caused by the breakdown or change in chemical bonds.

electrical energy

Potential of a charged particle in an electric field.

mechanical energy

Potential and kinetic energy in components of a mechanical system.

thermal energy

Energy from heat.

radiant energy

Energy of electromagnetic waves, such as in sunlight.

sound energy

Energy of vibrations within matter.

Related articles



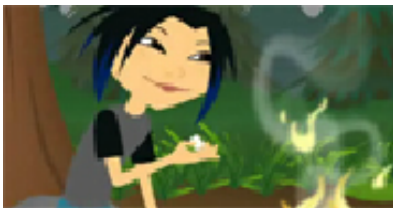
Light

Light is all around us, and we could not live without it. It also helps give our world all of its beautiful colors!



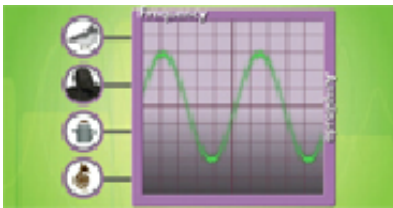
Heat

In the summer, it seems like there is way too much heat, and in the winter, you wish there was more! So where does it all come from, and where does it go?



Physical & Chemical Changes of Matter

Matter does not have to stay the same. It has a lot of ways to change its properties. Check it out!



Sound

Sound is more than just what you hear. Sound waves travel through the air, and they carry energy all over the place!



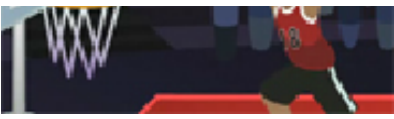
Properties of Matter

Matter is the stuff all around us, and all of it has mass and volume.



Solids, Liquids, Gases

You know water can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas. So can all kinds of other forms of matter. But how do they change states?



There is a special force of attraction that keeps our planet together. Do you know what it is?