

Energy Transfers



Supplies Needed:

2 thermometers
2 plastic cups
Water soluble markers

To Begin:

1. Have your class brainstorm different types of material that they walk on everyday at school. (dirt, sand, wood chips, grass, rocks, etc)
2. Pick two of the materials and place them in separate cups. Filling each cup approximately half way.
3. Place each cup outside in a very sunny spot. Leave them there for at least an hour.
4. After an hour use the thermometers to check the current classroom temperature. Use a marker to draw a line on both thermometers at the current temperature.
5. Go outside and insert a thermometer into one of the cups. Wait for the red liquid to stop moving and put a new line on the thermometer reading.
6. Repeat this process with the second thermometer and cup.

7. When you return to the classroom record the numbers represented on each thermometer. Put them in order from least to greatest.
8. Discuss the results: Did both of the materials get warmed by the sun? Did one get warmer than another? Which one was the coolest?
9. Journal and illustrate your discoveries.
10. Brainstorm any “I wonder...” questions that this experience evoked in the students and add them to a chart. This chart can offer some great continuations or extensions for future lessons.

Health Connection: Personal and Community Health

Standard 1: Essential Concepts

1.2.P Describe sun-safety practices.