

Name _____

Date _____



What's the Matter with My Jell-O? Family Page



Question: How does salt, sugar, Styrofoam packaging, or room temperature affect the phase change of Jell-O?

What's Happening in Class?

We are studying the the matter concepts of phase change and physical change using Jell-O. Each team of students is conducting four controlled investigations to determine the effect of salt, sugar, Styrofoam packaging, or room temperature (instead of refrigeration) on the phase change of Jell-O. For more specific information on this lesson, visit the *Science for Ohio* website at www.environmentaleducationohio.org and click on *What's The Matter With My Jell-O?*

What Can We Do at Home?

- 1) Discuss the following terms and come up with your own examples.
 - phase change*: when matter changes from one state (solid, liquid, gas) to another
Example: When Jell-O cools, it phase changes from liquid to solid.
 - freezing point*: the temperature at which liquid matter becomes solid as it cools
Example: When cooling, Jell-O has a freezing point of 80-85 degrees Fahrenheit.
 - melting point*: the temperature at which solid matter becomes liquid when it is heated
Example: If heated, Jell-O will reach its melting point around 80-85 degrees.
 - physical change*: when the physical properties of a substance change without becoming a different substance
Examples: Jell-O hardens from liquid to solid, snow melts to water, wood is cut into pieces.
- 2) Investigate the relationship between salting roads in winter and phase change. Find out what is being done in your area to reduce the impacts of salt on local ecosystems.

- 3) Consult the following resources.

Books

Eyewitness: Matter
by Christopher Cooper
Explores the amazing world of matter from the earliest ideas of the four elements to the latest discoveries about the atom.
ISBN 0-789-448866

World Wide Web

Beakman and Jax
tell where Jell-O comes from.
(You might not want to know!)
www.beakman.com/jello/jello.html