

**Unit 1: Structures and Properties of Matter**

Instructional Days: 20

**Unit Summary*****How is it that everything is made of star dust?***

Students build understandings of what occurs at the atomic and molecular scale. Students apply their understanding that pure substances have characteristic properties and are made from a single type of atom or molecule. They also provide a molecular level accounts to explain states of matter and changes between states. The crosscutting concepts of *cause and effect*, *scale*, *proportion and quantity*, *structure and function*, *interdependence of science, engineering, and technology*, and *the influence of science, engineering and technology on society and the natural world* provide a framework for understanding the disciplinary core ideas. Students demonstrate grade appropriate proficiency in *developing and using models*, and *obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information*. Students are also expected to use the scientific and engineering practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

**Student Learning Objectives**

**Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.** *[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on developing models of molecules that vary in complexity. Examples of simple molecules could include ammonia and methanol. Examples of extended structures could include sodium chloride or diamonds. Examples of molecular-level models could include drawings, 3D ball and stick structures, or computer representations showing different molecules with different types of atoms. The substructure of atoms and the periodic table are learned in high school chemistry.]* *[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include valence electrons and bonding energy, discussing the ionic nature of subunits of complex structures, or a complete depiction of all individual atoms in a complex molecule or extended structure.]*  
**(MS-PS1-1)**

**Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.** *[Clarification Statement: Examples of reactions could include burning sugar or steel wool, fat reacting with sodium hydroxide, and mixing zinc with hydrogen chloride.]* *[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to analysis of the following properties: density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor.]* **(MS-PS1-2)**

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MS-PS1-1	Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.
MS-PS1-2	Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred
PS1.A	Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways
PS1.B	Substances react chemically in characteristic ways
PS3.A	The term “heat” as used in everyday language refers both to thermal energy and the transfer of that thermal energy from one object to another

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p. 3](#)[Prior Learning p. 5](#)[Sample Open Education Resources  
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Math p. 3](#)[Future Learning p. 6](#)[Appendix A: NGSS and Foundations  
p. 8](#)[Modifications p. 4](#)**Enduring Understandings**

- People use all of their senses to detect matter.
- Even when matter seems to vanish, it is still conserved. The amount (weight) of matter is conserved when it changes form even when it seems to vanish (such as dissolving, mixing, melting and freezing.)
- Matter can change state when external forces are applied.

**Essential Questions**

- How is matter structured?
- How does matter react?
- How are energy and matter connected?

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Unit Sequence	
<i>Part A: If the universe is not made of Legos®, then what is it made of?</i>	
Concepts	Formative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substances are made from different types of atoms.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Atoms are the basic units of matter.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Substances combine with one another in various ways.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Molecules are two or more atoms joined together.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Atoms form molecules that range in size from two to thousands of atoms.               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Molecules can be simple or very complex.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Solids may be formed from molecules, or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals).</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students who understand the concepts are able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a model of a simple molecule.</li> <li>• Use the model of the simple molecule to describe its atomic composition.</li> <li>• Develop a model of an extended structure.</li> <li>• Use the model of the extended structure to describe its repeating subunits.</li> </ul> <p><i>[Boundary: The substructure of atoms and the periodic table are learned in high school chemistry.]</i></p>

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Unit Sequence	
Part B: <i>Is it possible to tell if two substances mixed or if they reacted with each other?</i>	
Concepts	Formative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it.</li> <li>• Substances react chemically in characteristic ways.</li> <li>• In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules; these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants.</li> <li>• The analysis of data on the properties of products and reactants can be used to determine whether a chemical process has occurred.</li> <li>• Density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor are characteristic properties that can be used to identify a pure substance.</li> <li>• Macroscopic patterns are related to the nature of the atomic-level structure of a substance.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students who understand the concepts are able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences from results of chemical reactions between substances before and after they undergo a chemical process.</li> <li>• Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after they undergo a chemical process.</li> <li>• Identify and describe possible correlation and causation relationships evidenced in chemical reactions.</li> <li>• Make logical and conceptual connections between evidence that chemical reactions have occurred and explanations of the properties of substances before and after they undergo a chemical process.</li> </ul>

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**What It Looks Like in the Classroom**

Within this unit, students will use informational text and models (which can include student-generated drawings, 3-D ball-and-stick structures, or computer representations) to understand that matter is composed of atoms and molecules. These models should reflect that substances are made from different types of atoms. Student models can be manipulated to show that molecules can be disassembled into their various atoms and reassembled into new substances according to chemical reactions. This scientific knowledge can be used to explain the properties of substances. Students will examine and differentiate between physical and chemical properties of matter. They are limited to the analysis of the following characteristic properties: density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor. This analysis of properties serves as evidence to support that chemical reactions of substances cause a rearrangement of atoms to form different molecules.

Students will also recognize that they are using models to observe phenomena too small to be seen. Students who demonstrate this understanding can develop or modify a model of simple molecules to describe the molecules' atomic composition. Examples of molecules that can be modeled include water, oxygen, carbon dioxide, ammonia, and methanol. Additionally, students will develop and modify a model that describes the atomic composition of an extended structure showing a pattern of repeating subunits. Examples may include sodium chloride and diamonds. Due to the repeating subunit patterns, models can include student-generated drawings, 3-D ball-and-stick structures, and computer representations.

Building upon these experiences, students will analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances in order to provide evidence that a chemical reaction has occurred. They will also analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. Students will recognize that macroscopic patterns are related to the nature of microscopic and atomic-level structure. They will use patterns to identify cause-and-effect relationships and graphs and charts to identify patterns in data.

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**Connecting with English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics***English Language Arts/Literacy*

- Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts on the characteristic properties of pure substances. Attend to precise details of explanations or descriptions about the properties of substances before and after they undergo a chemical process.
- Integrate qualitative information (flowcharts, diagrams, models, graphs, or tables) about the characteristic properties of substances before and after a chemical process has occurred with a version of that information expressed visually, **or** integrate technical information about the characteristic properties of substances before and after a chemical process has occurred with a version of that information expressed visually.

*Mathematics*

- Integrate quantitative or technical information about the composition of simple molecules and extended structures that is expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed in a model.
- Reason quantitatively (with amounts, numbers, sizes) and abstractly (with variables).
- Develop a mathematical model to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.
- Use ratio and rate reasoning to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.
- Reason quantitatively with amounts, numbers, and sizes for properties like density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor, and reason abstractly by assigning labels or symbols.
- Use ratio and rate reasoning to determine whether a chemical reaction has occurred.
- Display numerical data for properties such as density, melting point, solubility, flammability, and order in plots on a number line, including dot plots, histograms, and box plots.
- Summarize numerical data sets on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine whether a chemical reaction has occurred. The summary of the numerical data sets must be in relation to their context.

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**Modifications**

*(Note: Teachers identify the modifications that they will use in the unit. See NGSS Appendix D: [All Standards, All Students/Case Studies](#) for vignettes and explanations of the modifications.)*

- Structure lessons around questions that are authentic, relate to students' interests, social/family background and knowledge of their community.
- Provide students with multiple choices for how they can represent their understandings (e.g. multisensory techniques-auditory/visual aids; pictures, illustrations, graphs, charts, data tables, multimedia, modeling).
- Provide opportunities for students to connect with people of similar backgrounds (e.g. conversations via digital tool such as SKYPE, experts from the community helping with a project, journal articles, and biographies).
- Provide multiple grouping opportunities for students to share their ideas and to encourage work among various backgrounds and cultures (e.g. multiple representation and multimodal experiences).
- Engage students with a variety of Science and Engineering practices to provide students with multiple entry points and multiple ways to demonstrate their understandings.
- Use project-based science learning to connect science with observable phenomena.
- Structure the learning around explaining or solving a social or community-based issue.
- Provide ELL students with multiple literacy strategies.
- Collaborate with after-school programs or clubs to extend learning opportunities.
- Restructure lesson using UDL principals ([http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD\\_UA](http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD_UA))

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**Research on Student Learning**

Middle school students may think everything that exists is matter, including heat, light, and electricity. Alternatively, they may believe that matter does not include liquids and gases or that they are weightless materials. With specially designed instruction, some middle school students can learn the scientific notion of matter.

Middle-school and high-school students are deeply committed to a theory of continuous matter. Although some students may think that substances can be divided up into small particles, they do not recognize the particles as building blocks, but as formed as basically continuous substances under certain conditions.

Students at the beginning of middle school may be at different points in their conceptualization of a "theory" of matter. Although some 5th graders may start seeing weight as a fundamental property of all matter, many students in 6th and 7th grade still appear to think of weight simply as "felt weight" -- something whose weight they can't feel is considered to have no weight at all. Accordingly, some students believe that if one keeps dividing a piece of Styrofoam, one would soon obtain a piece that weighed nothing.

Students of all ages show a wide range of beliefs about the nature and behavior of particles. They lack an appreciation of the very small size of particles; attribute macroscopic properties to particles; believe there must be something in the space between particles; have difficulty in appreciating the intrinsic motion of particles in solids, liquids and gases; and have problems in conceptualizing forces between particles. Despite these difficulties, there is some evidence that carefully designed instruction carried out over a long period of time may help middle-school students develop correct ideas about particles ([NSDL, 2015](#)).

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**Prior Learning**

By the end of Grade 5, students understand that:

- Matter of any type can be subdivided into particles that are too small to see, but even then the matter still exists and can be detected by other means.
- A model showing that gases are made from matter particles that are too small to see and are moving freely around in space can explain many observations, including the inflation and shape of a balloon and the effects of air on larger particles or objects.
- The amount (weight) of matter is conserved when it changes form, even in transitions in which it seems to vanish.
- Measurements of a variety of observable properties can be used to identify materials. *[Note: In the fifth grade, no attempt was made to define the unseen particles or explain the atomic-scale mechanism of evaporation and condensation.]*
- When two or more different substances are mixed, a new substance with different properties may be formed.
- No matter what reaction or change in properties occurs, the total mass of the substances does not change. *[Note: Mass and weight were distinguished in 5<sup>th</sup> grade.]*

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## Future Learning

*Chemistry*

- Each atom has a charged substructure consisting of a nucleus, which is made of protons and neutrons surrounded by electrons.
- The periodic table orders elements horizontally according to the number of protons in the atom's nucleus; it organizes elements with similar chemical properties vertically, in columns. The repeating patterns of this table reflect patterns of outer electron states.
- The structure and interactions of matter at the bulk scale are determined by electrical forces within and between atoms.
- A stable molecule has less energy than the same set of atoms separated; at least this much energy must be provided in order to take the molecule apart.

*Earth and space science*

- The star called the sun is changing and will burn out over a lifespan of approximately 10 billion years.
- The study of stars' light spectra and brightness is used to identify compositional elements of stars, their movements, and their distances from Earth.
- The Big Bang theory is supported by observations of distant galaxies receding from our own, by the measured composition of stars and nonstellar gases, and by the maps of spectra of the primordial radiation (cosmic microwave background) that still fills the universe.
- Other than the hydrogen and helium formed at the time of the Big Bang, nuclear fusion within stars produces all atomic nuclei lighter than and including iron, and the process releases electromagnetic energy. Heavier elements are produced when certain massive stars achieve a supernova stage and explode.
- Chemical processes, their rates, and whether or not they store or release energy can be understood in terms of collisions of molecules and rearrangements of atoms into new molecules, with consequent changes in the sum of all bond energies in the set of molecules that are matched by changes in kinetic energy.
- In many situations, a dynamic and condition-dependent balance between a reaction and the reverse reaction determines

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the numbers of all types of molecules present.

- The fact that atoms are conserved, together with knowledge of the chemical properties of the elements involved, can be used to describe and predict chemical reactions.

**Connections to Other Units****Unit 2: Interactions of Matter**

- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it.
- Gases and liquids are made of molecules or inert atoms that are moving about relative to each other.
- In a liquid, the molecules are constantly in contact with others; in a gas, they are widely spaced except when they happen to collide. In a solid, atoms are closely spaced and may vibrate in position but do not change relative locations.
- The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter.

**Unit 3: Chemical Reactions**

- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants.
- The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change.
- Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy.

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**Sample of Open Education Resources**

[Middle school Chemistry, Chapter 1: Solids, Liquids, and Gases](#) Students are introduced to the idea that matter is composed of atoms and molecules that are attracted to each other and in constant motion. Students explore the attractions and motion of atoms and molecules as they experiment with and observe the heating and cooling of a solid, liquid, and gas.

[Middle school Chemistry, Chapter 2: Changes of State](#) Students help design experiments to test whether the temperature of water affects the rate of evaporation and whether the temperature of water vapor affects the rate of condensation. Students also look in more detail at the water molecule to help explain the state changes of water. (all activities/lessons)

[States of Matter:](#) Use interactive computer models to trace an atom's trajectory at a certain physical stage, and investigate how molecular behavior is responsible for the substance's state.

[Molecular View of a Solid:](#) Explore the structure of a solid at the molecular level. Molecules are always in motion, though molecules in a solid move slowly. All molecules are attracted to each other. Molecules can be weakly or strongly attracted to each other. The way that large molecules interact in physical, chemical and biological applications is a direct consequence of the many tiny attractions of the smaller parts.

[Molecular View of a Liquid:](#) Explore the structure of a liquid at the molecular level. Molecules are always in motion. Molecules in a liquid move moderately. All molecules are attracted to each other. Molecules can be weakly or strongly attracted to each other. The way that large molecules interact in physical, chemical and biological applications is a direct consequence of the many tiny attractions of the smaller parts.

[Molecular View of a Gas:](#) Explore the structure of a gas at the molecular level. Molecules are always in motion. Molecules in a gas move quickly. All molecules are attracted to each other. Molecules can be weakly or strongly attracted to each other. The way that large molecules interact in physical, chemical and biological applications is a direct consequence of the many tiny attractions of the smaller parts.

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## Appendix A: NGSS and Foundations for the Unit

**Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.** *[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on developing models of molecules that vary in complexity. Examples of simple molecules could include ammonia and methanol. Examples of extended structures could include sodium chloride or diamonds. Examples of molecular-level models could include drawings, 3D ball and stick structures, or computer representations showing different molecules with different types of atoms. The substructure of atoms and the periodic table are learned in high school chemistry.]* *[Assessment Boundary: Assessment does not include valence electrons and bonding energy, discussing the ionic nature of subunits of complex structures, or a complete depiction of all individual atoms in a complex molecule or extended structure.]*

**(MS-PS1-1)**

**Analyze and interpret data on the properties of substances before and after the substances interact to determine if a chemical reaction has occurred.** *[Clarification Statement: Examples of reactions could include burning sugar or steel wool, fat reacting with sodium hydroxide, and mixing zinc with hydrogen chloride.]* *[Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to analysis of the following properties: density, melting point, boiling point, solubility, flammability, and odor.]* **(MS-PS1-2)**

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document [A Framework for K-12 Science Education](#):

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
<p><b>Developing and Using Models</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a model to predict and/or describe phenomena. (MS-PS1-1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Analyzing and Interpreting Data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-PS1-2)</li> </ul>	<p><b>PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways. Atoms form molecules that range in size from two to thousands of atoms. (MS-PS1-1)</li> <li>Solids may be formed from molecules, or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits</li> </ul>	<p><b>Scale, Proportion, and Quantity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Time, space, and energy phenomena can be observed at various scales using models to study systems that are too large or too small. (MS-PS1-1)</li> </ul> <p><b>Patterns</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Macroscopic patterns are related to the nature of microscopic and atomic-level structure. (MS-PS1-2)</li> </ul>

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	<p>(e.g., crystals). (MS-PS1-1)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it. (MS-PS1-2)</li> </ul> <p><b>PS1.B: Chemical Reactions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Substances react chemically in characteristic ways. In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants. (MS-PS1-2)</li> </ul>	<p>----- -----</p> <p><b><i>Connections to Nature of Science</i></b></p> <p><b>Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations. (MS-PS1-2)</li> </ul>
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English Language Arts	Mathematics
<p>Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions.(MS-PS1-2) <b>RST.6-8.1</b></p> <p>Integrate quantitative or technical information expressed in words in a text with a version of that information expressed visually (e.g., in a flowchart, diagram, model, graph, or table). (MS-PS1-1),(MS-PS1-2) <b>RST.6-8.7</b></p>	<p>Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (MS-PS1-1),(MS-PS1-2) <b>MP.2</b></p> <p>Model with mathematics. (MS-PS1-1) <b>MP.4</b></p> <p>Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world and mathematical problems. (MS-PS1-1),(MS-PS1-2) <b>6.RP.A.3</b></p> <p>Use numbers expressed in the form of a single digit times an integer power of 10 to estimate very large or very small quantities, and to express how many times as much one is than the other. (MS-PS1-1) <b>8.EE.A.3</b></p> <p>Display numerical data in plots on a number line, including dot plots, histograms, and box plots. (MS-PS1-2) <b>6.SP.B.4</b></p> <p>Summarize numerical data sets in relation to their context. (MS-PS1-2) <b>6.SP.B.5</b></p>

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Common Vocabulary	
Particle	Internal energy
Pressure	Kinetic energy
Transfer	Particle motion
Variation	Potential energy
Atom	Proportional
Average	Thermal energy
Building block	Carbon dioxide
Substance	Inert atom
Helium	Molecular arrangement
Internal	Molecular motion
	molecule