

SCIENCE STARTERS

Temperature

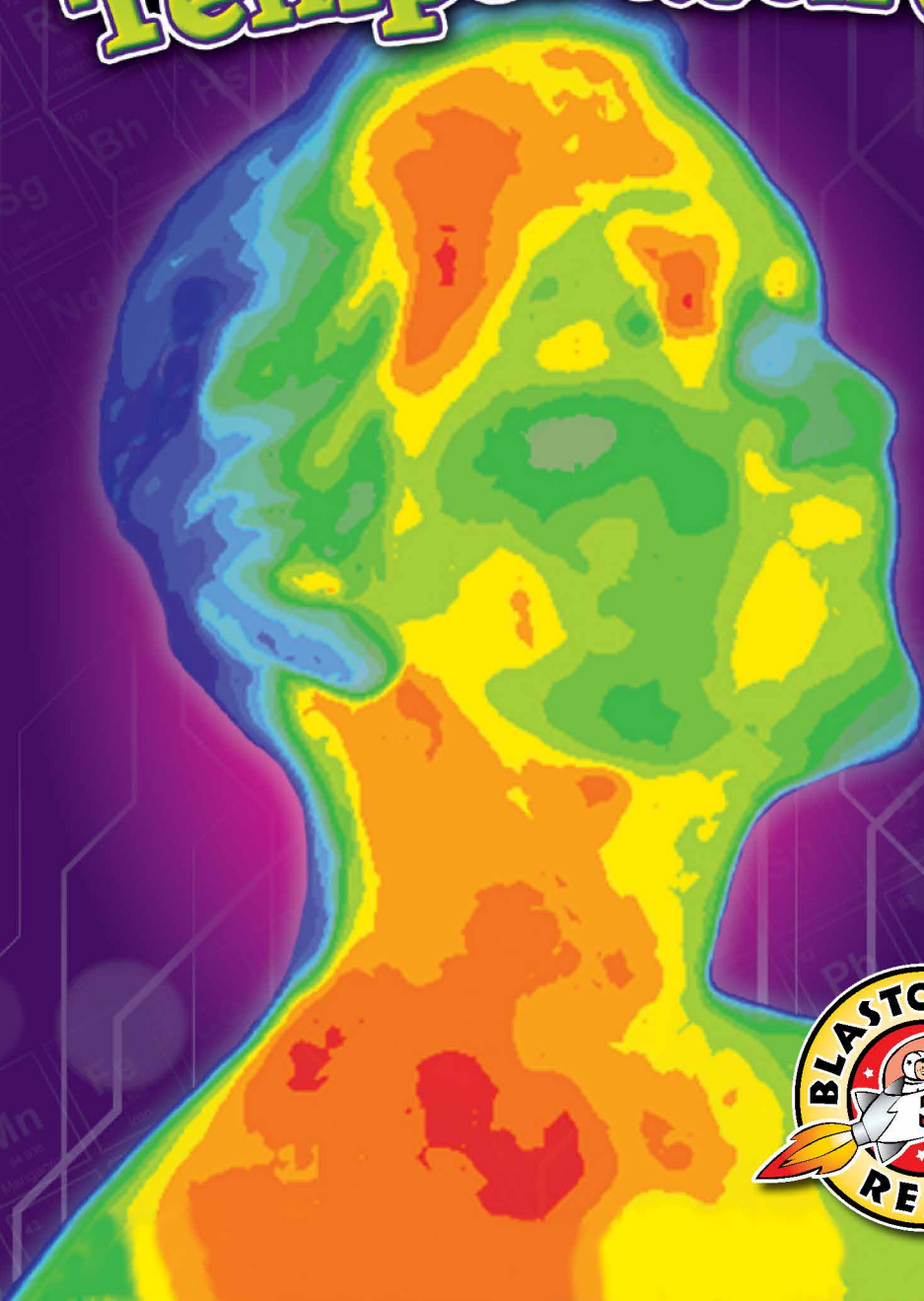




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A Day at the Beach



You feel the hot sand between your toes. The sun shines on your shoulders. It is a beautiful day at the beach!



You walk into the waves and
feel cool water splash you.
This is temperature at work!



What Is Temperature?

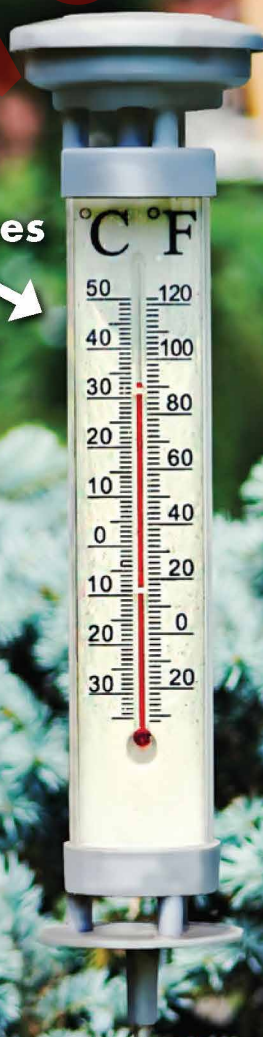


Temperature is how hot or cold something is. We cannot see temperature, but we feel it.



Temperature is measured
in units called **degrees**.

degrees



Measuring Temperature



You can measure temperature with a **thermometer**. Several **scales** measure temperature. The main ones are **Celsius** and **Fahrenheit**.

In the United States,
Fahrenheit is common.
Most other countries
use Celsius.

Reading a Thermometer

degrees
Fahrenheit

°F

degrees
Celsius

°C



Melting Points

You can watch how different materials react to temperature in your own microwave! Have an adult help you with this activity.

What you will need:

- 1/4 cup chocolate chips
- 2 ice cubes
- 2 small cups (microwave safe)
- a microwave
- a thermometer
- a spoon to stir

1. Place the chocolate chips in one cup and the ice in the other.
2. Heat the chocolate in the microwave for 30 seconds, then stir. Repeat four times.
3. Carefully take the chocolate mixture out of the microwave and take its temperature with a thermometer. Record the temperature.
4. Clean off your thermometer while the melted chocolate is wet so it does not harden!
5. Heat the ice cube cup in the microwave for 2 minutes.
6. Carefully take the cup out of the microwave. Take the water's temperature with the thermometer. Which substance was hotter after 2 minutes in the microwave? What did you notice about the time it took for each substance to melt?

