

# 7th Grade Unit 1 - Energy and Matter

Content Area: **Science**  
Course(s): **Science Grade 7**  
Time Period: **MP1**  
Length: **45 days**  
Status: **Published**

## NJSLS - Science

---

SCI.MS-ETS1-2	Evaluate competing design solutions using a systematic process to determine how well they meet the criteria and constraints of the problem.
SCI.MS-ETS1-4	Develop a model to generate data for iterative testing and modification of a proposed object, tool, or process such that an optimal design can be achieved.
SCI.MS-ETS1-1	Define the criteria and constraints of a design problem with sufficient precision to ensure a successful solution, taking into account relevant scientific principles and potential impacts on people and the natural environment that may limit possible solutions.
SCI.MS-ETS1-3	Analyze data from tests to determine similarities and differences among several design solutions to identify the best characteristics of each that can be combined into a new solution to better meet the criteria for success.
SCI.MS-PS1-1	Develop models to describe the atomic composition of simple molecules and extended structures.
SCI.MS-PS3-4	Plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of the particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.
SCI.MS-PS3-5	Construct, use, and present arguments to support the claim that when the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.
SCI.MS-PS1-4	Develop a model that predicts and describes changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed.
SCI.MS-PS3-3	Apply scientific principles to design, construct, and test a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.

## Science and Engineering Practices

---

### Planning and Carrying Out Investigations

Plan an investigation individually and collaboratively, and in the design: identify independent and dependent variables and controls, what tools are needed to do the gathering, how measurements will be recorded, and how much data is needed to support a claim. (MS-PS3-4)

### Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

Apply scientific ideas or principles to design, construct, and test a design of an object, tool, process or system. (MS-PS3-3)

### Engaging in Argument from Evidence

Construct, use, and present oral and written arguments supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support or refute an explanation or a model for a phenomenon. (MS-PS3-5)

Evaluate competing design solutions based on jointly developed and agreed-upon design criteria. (MS-ETS1-2)

### **Developing and Using Models Modeling**

Develop a model to predict and/or describe phenomena. (MS-PS1-1, MS-PS1-4)

Develop a model to generate data to test ideas about designed systems, including those representing inputs and outputs. (MS-ETS1-4)

### **Asking Questions and Defining Problems**

Define a design problem that can be solved through the development of an object, tool, process or system and includes multiple criteria and constraints, including scientific knowledge that may limit possible solutions. (MS-ETS1-1)

### **Analyzing and Interpreting Data**

Analyze and interpret data to determine similarities and differences in findings. (MS-ETS1-3)

## **Disciplinary Core Ideas**

---

### **PS3.A: Definitions of Energy**

Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic energy of particles of matter. The relationship between the temperature and the total energy of a system depends on the types, states, and amounts of matter present. (MS-PS3-3, MS-PS3-4)

### **PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer**

When the motion energy of an object changes, there is inevitably some other change in energy at the same time. (MS-PS3-5)

The amount of energy transfer needed to change the temperature of a matter sample by a given amount depends on the nature of the matter, the size of the sample, and the environment. (MS-PS3-4)

Energy is spontaneously transferred out of hotter regions or objects and into colder ones. (MS-PS3-3)

### **PS1.A: Structure and Properties of Matter**

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)

gases and liquids are made of molecules or inert atoms that are moving about relative to each other. (MS-PS1-4)

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. (MS-PS1-4)

Solids may be formed from molecules, or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals). (MS-PS1-1)

The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter. (MS-PS1-4)

### **ETS1.A: Defining and Delimiting Engineering Problems**

The more precisely a design task's criteria and constraints can be defined, the more likely it is that the designed solution will be successful. Specification of constraints includes consideration of scientific principles and other relevant knowledge that are likely to limit possible solutions. (MS-ETS1-1)

### **ETS1.B: Developing Possible Solutions**

A solution needs to be tested, and then modified on the basis of the test results, in order to improve it. (MS-ETS1-4)

There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet the criteria and

constraints of a problem. (MSETS1-2, MS-ETS1-3)

Sometimes parts of different solutions can be combined to create a solution that is better than any of its predecessors. (MSETS1-3)

Models of all kinds are important for testing solutions. (MS-ETS1-4)

### **ETS1.C: Optimizing the Design Solution**

Although one design may not perform the best across all tests, identifying the characteristics of the design that performed the best in each test can provide useful information for the redesign process—that is, some of those characteristics may be incorporated into the new design. (MS-ETS1-3)

The iterative process of testing the most promising solutions and modifying what is proposed on the basis of the test results leads to greater refinement and ultimately to an optimal solution. (MS-ETS1-4)

## **Crosscutting Concepts**

---

### **Scale, Proportion, and Quantity**

Proportional relationships (e.g. speed as the ratio of distance traveled to time taken) among different types of quantities provide information about the magnitude of properties and processes. (MS-PS3-4)

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)

### **Energy and Matter**

Energy may take different forms (e.g. energy in fields, thermal energy, energy of motion). (MS-PS3-5)

The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system. (MS-PS3-3)

### **Cause and Effect**

Cause and effect relationships may be used to predict phenomena in natural or designed systems. (MS-PS1-4)

### **Scientific Knowledge is Based on Empirical Evidence**

Science knowledge is based upon logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations (MS-PS3-4, MS-PS3-5)

### **Influence of Science, Engineering, and Technology on Society and the Natural World**

All human activity draws on natural resources and has both short and long-term consequences, positive as well as negative, for the health of people and the natural environment. (MS-ETS1-1)

The uses of technologies and limitations on their use are driven by individual or societal needs, desires, and values; by the findings of scientific research; and by differences in such factors as climate, natural resources, and economic conditions. (MS-ETS1-1)

### **Rationale and Transfer Goals**

---

In this unit, students ask questions, plan and carry out investigations, engage in argument from evidence, analyze and interpret data, construct explanations, define problems and design solutions as they make sense of the difference between energy and temperature. They use the practices to make sense of how the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system. Students also develop their understanding of important qualitative ideas about the conservation of energy. Finally, 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. The crosscutting concepts of energy and matter, scale, proportion, and quantity, and influence of science, engineering, and technology on society and the natural world are the organizing concepts for these disciplinary core ideas. Students ask questions, plan and carry out investigations, engage in argument from evidence, analyze and interpret data, construct explanations, define problems and design solutions. Students are also expected to use these practices to demonstrate understanding of the core ideas.

### **Enduring Understandings**

---

Kinetic energy is related to the mass of an object and to the speed of an object.

When the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.

Thermal energy is transferred from hotter objects to colder objects.

Everything in the universe is made of matter which has volume and mass.

## **Essential Questions**

---

How can a standard thermometer be used to tell you how particles are behaving?

Who can design the best roller coaster?

If the universe is not made from Legos, then what is it made of?

How can you tell what the molecules are doing in a substance?

## **Content - What will students know?**

---

- There are relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.
- Temperature is a measure of the average kinetic energy of particles of matter.
- The relationship between the temperature and the total energy of a system depends on the types, states, and amounts of matter present.
- The amount of energy transfer needed to change the temperature of a matter sample by a given amount depends on the nature of the matter, the size of the sample, and the environment.
- Proportional relationships among the amount of energy transferred, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of particles as measured by temperature of the sample provide information about the magnitude of properties and processes.

- Energy is spontaneously transferred out of hotter regions or objects and into colder ones.
- The transfer of energy can be tracked as energy flows through a designed or natural system.
- The more precisely a design task's criteria and constraints can be defined, the more likely it is that the designed solution will be successful.
- Specification of constraints includes consideration of scientific principles and other relevant knowledge that is likely to limit possible solutions.
- A solution needs to be tested and then modified on the basis of the test results in order to improve it.
- There are systematic processes for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet criteria and constraints of a problem.
- When the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.
- When the motion energy of an object changes, there is inevitably some other change in energy at the same time.
- Kinetic energy may take different forms (e.g., energy in fields, thermal energy, energy of motion).
- Substances are made from different types of atoms. Atoms are the basic units of matter.
- Substances combine with one another in various ways. Molecules are two or more atoms joined together.
- Atoms form molecules that range in size from two to thousands of atoms. Molecules can be simple or very complex.
- Solids may be formed from molecules, or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals).
- Changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance occur when thermal energy is added or removed.
- Qualitative molecular-level models of solids, liquids, and gases can be used to show that adding or removing thermal energy increases or decreases the kinetic energy of the particles until a change of state occurs.
- 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, the molecules 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 models of matter.
- 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.

- Thermal energy is the motion of atoms or molecules within a substance.
- In science, heat is used to refer to the energy transferred due to the temperature difference between two objects.
- The temperature of a system is proportional to the average internal kinetic energy and potential energy per atom or molecule (whichever is the appropriate building block for the system's material).
- The details of the relationship between the average internal kinetic energy and the potential energy per atom or molecule depend on the type of atom or molecule and the interactions among the atoms in the material.
- Temperature is not a direct measure of a system's total thermal energy.
- The total thermal energy (sometimes called the total internal energy) of a system depends jointly on the temperature, the total number of atoms in the system, and the state of the material.
- Cause-and-effect relationships may be used to predict and describe changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed in natural systems.

### **Skills - What will students be able to do?**

---

- Individually and collaboratively plan an investigation to determine the relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.
- As part of a planned investigation, identify independent and dependent variables and controls, what tools are needed to do the gathering, how measurements will be recorded, and how much data is needed to support a claim.
- Make logical and conceptual connections between evidence and explanations.
- Apply scientific ideas or principles to design, construct, and test a design of a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.
- Determine design criteria and constraints for a device that either minimizes or maximizes thermal energy transfer.
- Test design solutions and modify them on the basis of the test results in order to improve them.
- Use a systematic process for evaluating solutions with respect to how well they meet criteria and constraints.
- Construct, use, and present oral and written arguments supported by empirical evidence and scientific reasoning to support the claim that when the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred



to or from the object.

- Conduct an inventory or other representation of the energy before and after the transfer in the form of temperature changes or motion of an object. Do not include calculations of energy.
- Develop a model of a simple molecule.
- Use the model of the simple molecule to describe its atomic composition.
- Develop a model of an extended structure.
- Use the model of the extended structure to describe its repeating subunits.
- Develop a model that predicts and describes changes in particle motion that could include molecules or inert atoms or pure substances.
- Use cause-and-effect relationships to predict changes in particle motion, temperature, and state of a pure substance when thermal energy is added or removed in natural or designed systems.

### **Activities - How will we teach the content and skills?**

---

- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 1: Lesson 1 Particles in Motion
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 1: Lesson 2 States of Matter
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 1: Lesson 3 Thermal Energy Transfers
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 1: Lesson 4 Thermal Energy Conductivity
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 2: Lesson 1 Energy and States of Matter
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 2: Lesson 2 Changes in Temperature
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 2: Lesson 3 Changes in Pressure
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 2: Molecular Structure
- [MS-PS1-1 Lesson Examples](#)
- [MS-PS1-4 Lesson Examples](#)
- [MS-PS3-3 Lesson Examples](#)
- [MS-PS3-4 Lesson Examples](#)
- [MS-PS3-5 Lesson Examples](#)

## Evidence/Assessments - How will we know what students have learned?

- Inspire Science Labs
- Inspire Science STEM Module Projects
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 1 Assessment
- Inspire Science Physical Science Unit 3 Module 2 Assessment
- Daily Warm Ups
- Daily Exit Tickets
- [Grade 7 Unit 1 Benchmark Assessment](#)

## Spiraling for Mastery

Content or Skill for this Unit	Spiral Focus from Previous Unit	Instructional Activity
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are relationships among the energy transferred, the type of matter, the mass, and the change in the average kinetic energy of particles as measured by the temperature of the sample.</li> <li>• When the kinetic energy of an object changes, energy is transferred to or from the object.</li> <li>• Substances are made from different types of atoms. Atoms are the basic units of matter.</li> </ul>	<p>By the end of Grade 5, students understand that:</p> <p>Energy is present whenever there are moving objects, sound, light, or heat.</p> <p>When objects collide, energy can be transferred from one object to another, thereby changing their motion. In such collisions, some energy is typically also transferred to the surrounding air; as a result, the air gets heated and sound is produced.</p> <p>Light transfers energy from place to place.</p> <p>Energy can be transferred from place to place by electric currents, which can then be used locally to produce motion, sound, heat, or light.</p>	<p><a href="#">5-PS1-1 Activities</a></p> <p><a href="#">5-PS1-2 Activities</a></p> <p><a href="#">4-PS3-2 Activities</a></p>

	<p>Transforming the energy of motion into electrical energy may have produced the currents to begin with.</p> <p>When objects collide, the contact forces transfer energy so as to change the objects' motions.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>The amount (weight) of matter is conserved when it changes form, even in transitions in which it seems to vanish.</p>	
--	--	--

## Key Resources

---

Inspire Science

[States of Matter - PhET](#)

## **21st Century Life and Careers**

---

WRK.9.2.8.CAP.8	Compare education and training requirements, income potential, and primary duties of at least two jobs of interest.
-----------------	---

## **Career Readiness, Life Literacies, & Key Skills**

---

TECH.9.4.8.CI.1	Assess data gathered on varying perspectives on causes of climate change (e.g., cross-cultural, gender-specific, generational), and determine how the data can best be used to design multiple potential solutions (e.g., RI.7.9, 6.SP.B.5, 7.1.NH.IPERS.6, 8.2.8.ETW.4).
TECH.9.4.8.CT.1	Evaluate diverse solutions proposed by a variety of individuals, organizations, and/or agencies to a local or global problem, such as climate change, and use critical thinking skills to predict which one(s) are likely to be effective (e.g., MS-ETS1-2).
TECH.9.4.8.CT.2	Develop multiple solutions to a problem and evaluate short- and long-term effects to determine the most plausible option (e.g., MS-ETS1-4, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.1).
TECH.9.4.8.CT.3	Compare past problem-solving solutions to local, national, or global issues and analyze the factors that led to a positive or negative outcome.
TECH.9.4.8.TL.1	Construct a spreadsheet in order to analyze multiple data sets, identify relationships, and facilitate data-based decision-making.
TECH.9.4.8.TL.2	Gather data and digitally represent information to communicate a real-world problem (e.g., MS-ESS3-4, 6.1.8.EconET.1, 6.1.8.CivicsPR.4).
TECH.9.4.8.IML.3	Create a digital visualization that effectively communicates a data set using formatting techniques such as form, position, size, color, movement, and spatial grouping (e.g., 6.SP.B.4, 7.SP.B.8b).
TECH.9.4.8.IML.4	Ask insightful questions to organize different types of data and create meaningful visualizations.
TECH.9.4.8.IML.5	Analyze and interpret local or public data sets to summarize and effectively communicate the data.

## **Interdisciplinary Connections/Companion Standards**

---

### **NJSLS ELA**

RST.6-8.1 Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to the precise details of explanations or descriptions (MS-PS3-5, MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-2, MS-ETS1-3)

RST.6-8.7 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-ETS1-3)

RST.6-8.9 Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic. (MS-ETS1-2, MS-ETS1-3)

RST.6-8.3 Follow precisely a multistep procedure when carrying out experiments, taking measurements, or performing technical tasks. (MS-PS3-3, MS-PS3-4)

WHST.6-8.1 Write arguments focused on discipline content. (MS-PS3-5)

WHST.6-8.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question), drawing on several sources and generating additional related, focused questions that allow for multiple avenues of exploration. (MS-PS3-3, MS-PS3-4, MS-PS1-1, MS-PS1-4, MS-ETS1-2)

WHST.6-8.8 Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, using search terms effectively; assess the credibility and accuracy of each source; and quote or paraphrase the data and conclusions of others while avoiding plagiarism and following a standard format for citation. (MS-ETS1-1)

WHST.6-8.9 Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (MS-ETS1-2)

SL.8.5 Integrate multimedia and visual displays into presentations to clarify information, strengthen claims and evidence, and add interest. (MS-ETS1-4)

### **NJSLS Mathematics**

MP.2 Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (MS-PS3-4, MS-PS3-5, MS-PS1-1, MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-2, MS-ETS1-3, MS-ETS1-4)

MP.4 Model with mathematics. (MS-PS1-1)

6.RP.A.1 Understand the concept of ratio and use ratio language to describe a ratio relationship between two quantities. (MS-PS3-5)

6.RP.A.3 Use ratio and rate reasoning to solve real-world and mathematical problems. (MS-PS1-1)

6.NS.C.5 Understand that positive and negative numbers are used together to describe quantities having opposite directions or values (e.g., temperature above/below zero, elevation above/below sea level, credits/debits, positive/negative electric charge); use positive and negative numbers to represent quantities in real-world contexts, explaining the meaning of 0 in each situation. (MS-PS1-4)

7.RP.A.2 Recognize and represent proportional relationships between quantities. (MS-PS3-5)

8.F.A.3 Interpret the equation  $y = mx + b$  as defining a linear function, whose graph is a straight line; give examples of functions that are not linear. (MS-PS3-5)

6.SP.B.5 Summarize numerical data sets in relation to their context. (MS-PS3-4)

8.EE.A.3 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)

7.EE.3 Solve multi-step real-life and mathematical problems posed with positive and negative rational numbers in any form (whole numbers, fractions, and decimals), using tools strategically. Apply properties of operations to calculate with numbers in any form; convert between forms as appropriate; and assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies. (MS-ETS1-1, MS-ETS1-2, MS-ETS1-3)

7.SP Develop a probability model and use it to find probabilities of events. Compare probabilities from a model to observed frequencies; if the agreement is not good, explain possible sources of the discrepancy. (MS-ETS1-4)

