**Vocabulary: Phase Changes**



**Vocabulary**

* Altitude – vertical distance, or elevation, above sea level.
* Boil – change from a liquid to a gas.
* Boiling point­ – the temperature at which boiling occurs.
	+ At sea level, the boiling point of water is 100 °C (212 °F).
	+ Water boils at lower temperatures at higher altitudes because air pressure is lower there.
* Freeze – change from a liquid to a solid.
* Freezing point – the temperature at which freezing occurs.
	+ At sea level, the freezing pointof water is 0 °C (32 °F).
* Gas – a phase in which matter has no definite shape or volume.
	+ A gas will expand to fill any container. A gas can also be compressed.
	+ Molecules in a gas are relatively far apart and move freely.
	+ Water in the gas phase is called *water vapor*.
* Liquid – a phase in which matter has definite volume but no definite shape.
	+ A liquid will take the shape of a container but cannot expand or be compressed.
	+ Molecules in a liquid move randomly but stay close to one another.
* Melt – change from a solid to a liquid.
* Melting point – the temperature at which melting occurs.
	+ At sea level, the melting pointof ice is 0 °C (32 °F).
* Phase – a state of matter with certain physical properties.
	+ Solid, liquid, and gas phases occur naturally on Earth.
	+ *Plasma* is a phase found in stars.
* Solid – a phase in which matter has a definite shape and a definite volume.
	+ A solid will retain the same shape and volume in any container.
	+ Atoms in a solid are held in a rigid structure and cannot move freely.
	+ Water in the solid phase is called *ice*.