**Vocabulary: Phase Changes**

dictionary2

**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*.