

Vocabulary: Phases of Water



Vocabulary

- **Boil** – to change from a liquid to a gas.
 - At sea level, water boils at 100°C (212°F).
 - Water boils at lower temperatures in higher elevations.
- **Condense** – to change from a gas to a liquid.
- **Density** – the amount of matter in a certain space.
 - Density is usually measured in grams per milliliter (g/mL).
- **Freeze** – to change from a liquid to a solid.
 - Water freezes at 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 are close together and move freely.
- **Melt** – to change from a solid to a liquid.
 - Ice melts at 0°C (32°F).
- **Molecule** – a particle made of two or more *atoms*.
 - A water molecule (H₂O) is made of one oxygen atom and two hydrogen atoms.
- **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. Other phases have been produced in the lab.
- **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*.
- **Volume** – the amount of space an object occupies.