

Greetings, Family!

Matter is the “stuff” that makes up our world—all the materials and substances that we can measure or detect with our senses. In our next unit, “Kinds of Matter,” students will learn about the structure of matter, and how matter can change. Students will learn that the different properties of a substance, such as the ability to bend, stretch, melt, boil, or conduct electricity, stem from the atoms and molecules that make it up.

You can help your student learn more about matter and its properties by having him or her make observations on the different kinds of materials found in your own home. For example, students could observe salt and sugar crystals with a magnifier and question why the shapes of the crystals are different. Students could mix a pinch of baking soda with water and then with vinegar and ask why the baking soda reacts with one substance and not with the other.

For this unit, we will also be doing some hands-on activities about matter, using the materials listed below. Can you donate any of these items? If so, we need to receive your donated materials by _____.

- rock salt
- baking soda
- marbles
- different kinds of metals
- 9-volt batteries
- cardboard
- copper wire
- plastic bottles
- insulated wire

Finally, we could use your help in the classroom. Do you or other family members have any particular interest or special experience with this topic? Would you be able to help with the activities? If so, please fill out the form below and have your student return it to class.

Thank you very much for your help!

Family Newsletter

Unit E, Kinds of Matter

Parent: _____ Student: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____