

Matter is Made of Particles

READ ALOUD PASSAGE

Here is an amazing fact: everything around you is made of particles too small to see with the naked eye. A rock, a drop of water, the air you breathe, and even your own body are all made of these invisible particles. Scientists have known this for a long time, even though particles are far too small to see with an ordinary microscope. How do scientists know particles exist if they cannot see them? They look at the clues matter leaves behind.

When you dissolve salt in water, the salt seems to disappear. But you can still taste it. The salt broke apart into particles too small to see, but it is still there. When you spray perfume in a room, the smell spreads quickly in all directions because the particles travel through the air. Particles are incredibly small and incredibly numerous.

A single grain of sand contains more particles than you could count in a lifetime. Even so, scientists have found many ways to measure and study them. The idea that all matter is made of particles helps explain many things we observe every day. It explains why things dissolve, why smells spread through a room, and why you can squeeze air into a tire. Wherever there is matter, there are particles.

Activity 1: Word Builder

Answer each question with your own words.

1. List four nouns that are made of particles.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

2. Salt seems to disappear in water. List three verbs that mean almost the same as disappear.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

Activity 2: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. at / the / matter / they / clues / look / behind / leaves

Activity 3: Statement or Question?

Read each sentence. Write S if it is a statement or Q if it is a question. Then add the correct end mark on the line.

☐ 1. How do scientists know particles exist ____

☐ 2. Salt dissolves in water ____

☐ 3. Can you taste the salt ____

☐ 4. Smells spread through a room ____

Activity 4: Sentence Scramble

These words are mixed up. Put them in order to make a sentence. Start with a capital letter and end with a period.

1. the / at / behind / they / clues / look / that / leaves / matter

2. you / still / but / can / it / taste

3. incredibly / particles / are / small / and / incredibly / numerous

Activity 5: Grow a Sentence

This sentence is very short. Answer each question to add more information. Then put your answers together into one longer sentence.

START WITH THIS SENTENCE

Smells spread.

When?

Where?

Why?

Write your expanded sentence:
