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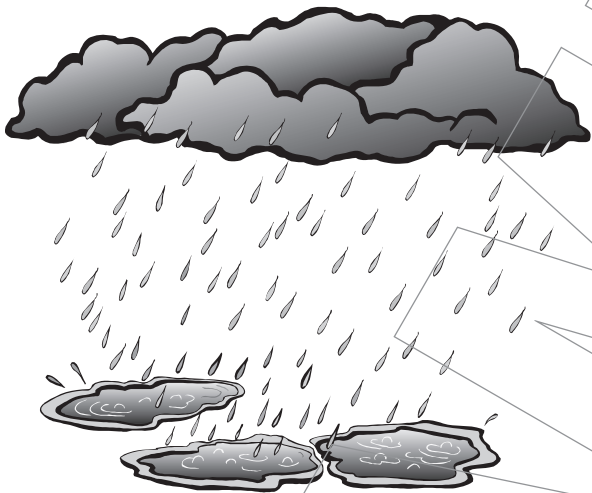
The State of Things

Take a walk. The ground is hard under your feet. Something hard is a solid. Go swimming. The water is wet. Something wet is a liquid. Feel the wind. Air is a gas. You can't see it.

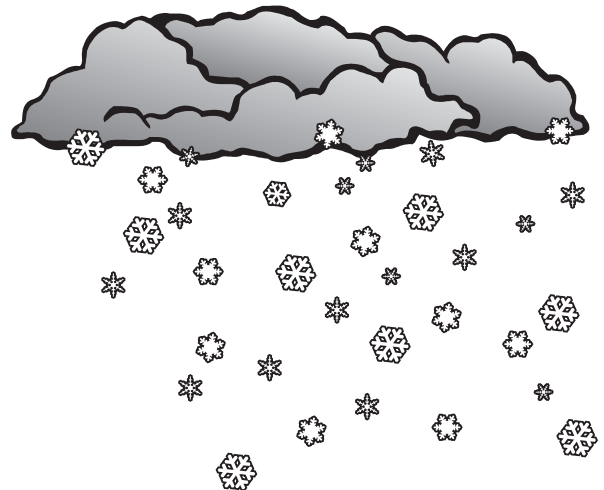
All these things are made of **matter**. So is everything else around you. Matter has three states. It can be a solid. It can be a liquid. It can be a gas.

Look at a penny. It is hard. It is a solid. A penny can melt. Then it would be a liquid.

Solids are hard. Liquids are wet. Gases rise in the air. They look different. They feel different. But sometimes the same thing can be all three! Rain is a liquid. It feels wet. When it is very cold, rain falls as snow. Snow is a solid. Make a snowball. It feels hard. Then it warms up. The snow melts!



Now it is a liquid. It is water. What happens to puddles of water on a hot day? They go away. The water becomes a gas. It goes into the air. You do not see it. But it is still there. It will fall again as rain or snow.



The State of Things

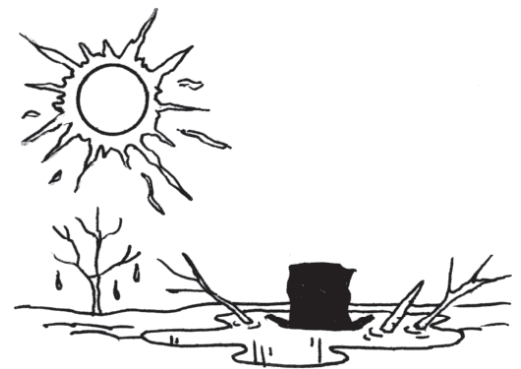
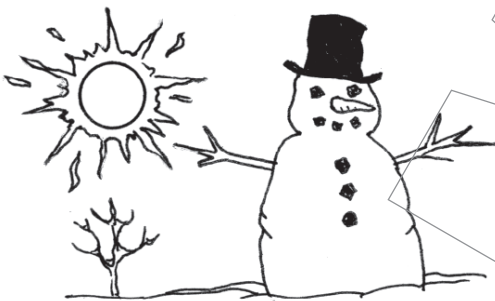
At the beach or by a lake, you can feel the ground under your feet. You can splash in the water. You can feel the air as the breeze blows. The ground is hard. Something hard is a solid. The water is wet. Something wet is a liquid. You can't see the air, but you can feel it. The air is a gas.

Everything around you is made of **matter**. Matter has three states. It can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas.

What state is a penny? A penny is hard, so it is a solid. If a penny gets hot enough, it could melt. Then it would be a liquid.

Sometimes the same thing can be a solid, a liquid, or a gas. Rain is water that falls from the sky. So, rain is a liquid. If the rain becomes very cold, it falls as snow. Snow is a solid. You can make a snowball with it. But what happens to the snowball if it gets warm? It melts

and makes a big puddle. The solid snow has changed to liquid water. What happens to the puddle if the air around it stays warm and dry? The puddle of water becomes a gas. It goes back up into the air. Someday it will fall again as rain or snow.



Read each question. Circle the letter of the best answer.

- 1 Which of these is a solid?
A water B air C ice D milk
- 2 The main idea of this story is that there are three _____.
A place to play C kinds of weather
B states of matter D things you can feel
- 3 You can decide from the story that for a solid to become a liquid, it has to _____.
A stay hard C get warmer
B turn to water D get very cold
- 4 If the air is warm and dry, what happens *next* to the water in a puddle?
A It turns to ice. C It changes into rain.
B It becomes a gas. D It becomes a snowball.
- 5 Which of these sentences is an opinion?
A Liquids are wet. C Snow is a solid.
B Rain is a liquid. D Snow is better than rain.
- 6 Why does rain become snow?
A Warm air turns the liquid into a gas.
B Cold air turns the liquid into a solid.
C Warm air turns the solid into a liquid.
D Cold air turns the gas into a liquid.



- 7 In this story, the word **matter** means ____.
- A stuff things are made of
 - B something to worry about
 - C something important
 - D written or printed things

Write your answer to each question on the lines.

- 8 List something that is a solid. Then list a liquid and a gas. Think of things that were not named in the story.

- 9 Do you think all solids melt into liquids at the same temperature? Why, or why not? Give an example.
