

## Unit Summary

*How is energy transferred within a system?*

Unit 2B is used in a chemistry course when **Unit 2: The Chemistry of Abiotic Systems** is taught in the **Capstone Science Course**. In Energy of Chemical Systems, students will understand energy as a quantitative property of a system—a property that depends on the motion and interactions of matter and radiation within that system. They will also understand that the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system. Students develop an understanding that energy, at both the macroscopic and the atomic scales, can be accounted for as motions of particles or as energy associated with the configurations (relative positions) of particles.

Students understand the role that water plays in affecting weather. Students can examine the ways that human activities cause feedback that create changes to other systems. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency in *developing and using models, planning and carrying out investigations, analyzing and interpreting data, engaging in argument from evidence*, and using these practices to demonstrate understanding of core ideas.

## Student Learning Objectives

**Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that the transfer of thermal energy when two components of different temperature are combined within a closed system results in a more uniform energy distribution among the components in the system (second law of thermodynamics).** *[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on analyzing data from student investigations and using mathematical thinking to describe the energy changes both quantitatively and conceptually. Examples of investigations could include mixing liquids at different initial temperatures or adding objects at different temperatures to water.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to investigations based on materials and tools provided to students.] (HS-PS3-4)*

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**Part A: Does thermal energy always transfer or transform in predictable ways?**

Concepts	Formative Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When investigating or describing a system, the boundaries and initial conditions of the system need to be defined and their inputs and outputs analyzed and described using models.</li> <li>Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transported from one place to another and transferred between systems.</li> <li>Uncontrolled systems always move toward more stable states—that is, toward a more uniform energy distribution.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Students who understand the concepts are able to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and conduct an investigation individually or collaboratively to produce data on transfer of thermal energy in a closed system that can serve as a basis for evidence of uniform energy distribution among components of a system when two components of different temperatures are combined.</li> <li>Use models to describe a system and define its boundaries, initial conditions, inputs, and outputs.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although energy cannot be destroyed, it can be converted into less useful forms—for example, to thermal energy in the surrounding environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design an investigation to produce data on transfer of thermal energy in a closed system that can serve as a basis for evidence of uniform energy distribution among components of a system when two components of different temperatures are combined, considering types, how much, and the accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements.</li> <li>Consider the limitations of the precision of the data collected and refine the design accordingly</li> </ul>
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### What It Looks Like in the Classroom

In this unit of study, students begin by building their understanding of the law of conservation of energy by planning and conducting investigations of thermal energy transfer. Students should investigate and describe a system focusing specifically on thermal energy transfer in a closed system. These investigations will provide opportunities for students to use models that can be made of a variety of materials, such as student-generated drawings and/or digital simulations, such as those available from PhET. These models can be used to describe a system, and define its boundaries, initial conditions, inputs, and outputs.

Students should have the opportunity to ask and refine questions, using specific textual evidence, about the energy distribution in a system. Students should collect relevant data from several sources, including their own investigations, and synthesize their findings into a coherent understanding.

Using the knowledge that energy cannot be created or destroyed, students should create computational or mathematical models to calculate the change in the energy in one component of a system when the change in energy of the other component(s) and energy flows in and out of the systems are known. In order to do this, students should manipulate variables in specific heat calculations. For example, students can use data collected from simple Styrofoam calorimeters to investigate the mixing of water at different initial temperatures or the adding of objects at different temperatures to water to serve as a basis for evidence of uniform energy distribution among components of a system. Students might conduct an investigation using different materials such as various metals, glass, and rock samples. Using the specific heat values for these substances, students could create mathematical models to represent the energy distribution in a system, identify important quantities in energy distribution, map relationships, and analyze those relationships mathematically to draw conclusions.

These investigations will allow students to collect data to show that energy is transported from one place to another or transferred between systems, and that uncontrolled systems always move toward more stable states with more uniform energy distribution. Students should also observe during investigations that energy can be converted into less useful forms, such as thermal energy released to the surrounding environment. During the design and implementation of investigations, students must consider the precision and accuracy appropriate to limitations on measurement of the data collected and refine their design accordingly.

### Connecting with English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics

#### *English Language Arts/Literacy-*

- Ask and refine questions to support uniform energy distribution among the components in a system when two components of different temperature are combined, using specific textual evidence.
- Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to determine energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are

combined.

- Collect relevant data across a broad spectrum of sources about the distribution of energy in a system and assess the strengths and limitations of each source.

#### Mathematics-

- Use symbols to represent energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined, and manipulate the representing symbols. Make sense of quantities and relationships in the energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined.
- Use a mathematical model to describe energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined. Identify important quantities in energy distribution in a system when two components of different temperature are combined and map their relationships using tools. Analyze those relationships mathematically to draw conclusions, reflecting on the results and improving the model if it has not served its purpose.

#### Modifications

*Teacher Note: Teachers identify the modifications that they will use in the unit. The unneeded modifications can then be deleted from the list.*

- Restructure lesson using UDL principals ([http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD\\_UA](http://www.cast.org/our-work/about-udl.html#.VXmoXcfD_UA))
- Structure lessons around questions that are authentic, relate to students' interests, social/family background and knowledge of their community.
- Provide students with multiple choices for how they can represent their understandings (e.g. multisensory techniques-auditory/visual aids; pictures, illustrations, graphs, charts, data tables, multimedia, modeling).
- Provide opportunities for students to connect with people of similar backgrounds (e.g. conversations via digital tool such as SKYPE, experts from the community helping with a project, journal articles, and biographies).
- Provide multiple grouping opportunities for students to share their ideas and to encourage work among various backgrounds and cultures (e.g. multiple representation and multimodal experiences).
- Engage students with a variety of Science and Engineering practices to provide students with multiple entry points and multiple ways to demonstrate their understandings.
- Use project-based science learning to connect science with observable phenomena.
- Structure the learning around explaining or solving a social or community-based issue.
- Provide ELL students with multiple literacy strategies.
- Collaborate with after-school programs or clubs to extend learning opportunities.

**Research on Student Learning**

Middle- and high-school student thinking about chemical change tends to be dominated by the obvious features of the change. For example, some students think that when something is burned in a closed container, it will weigh more because they see the smoke that was produced. Further, many students do not view chemical changes as interactions. They do not understand that substances can be formed by the recombination of atoms in the original substances. Rather, they see chemical change as the result of a separate change in the original substance, or changes, each one separate, in several original substances. For example, some students see the smoke formed when wood burns as having been driven out of the wood by the flame ([NSDL, 2015](#)).

**Prior Learning***Physical science*

- Substances are made from different types of atoms, which combine with one another in various ways.
- Atoms form molecules that range in size from two atoms to thousands of atoms.
- Each pure substance has characteristic physical and chemical properties (for any bulk quantity under given conditions) that can be used to identify it.
- Gases and liquids are made of molecules or inert atoms that are moving about relative to each other.
- In a liquid, the molecules are constantly in contact with others.
- In a gas, they are widely spaced except when they happen to collide.
- In a solid, atoms are closely spaced and may vibrate in position but do not change relative locations.
- Solids may be formed from molecules or they may be extended structures with repeating subunits (e.g., crystals).
- The changes of state that occur with variations in temperature or pressure can be described and predicted using these models of matter.
- Substances react chemically in characteristic ways.
- In a chemical process, the atoms that make up the original substances are regrouped into different molecules, and these new substances have different properties from those of the reactants.
- The total number of each type of atom is conserved, and thus the mass does not change.
- Some chemical reactions release energy, others store energy.

**Connections to Other Courses***Physical science*

- Each atom has a charged substructure consisting of a nucleus made of protons and neutrons and surrounded by electrons.
- The periodic table orders elements horizontally by the number of protons in the nucleus of each element's atoms and places elements with similar chemical properties in columns. The repeating patterns of this table reflect patterns of outer electron states.

- The structure and interactions of matter at the bulk scale are determined by electrical forces within and between atoms.
- A stable molecule has less energy than does the same set of atoms separated; at least this much energy is required in order to take the molecule apart.
- Chemical processes, their rates, and whether or not they store or release energy can be understood in terms of the collisions of molecules and the rearrangements of atoms into new molecules, with consequent changes in the sum of all bond energies in the set of molecules that are matched by changes in kinetic energy.
- In many situations, a dynamic and condition-dependent balance between a reaction and the reverse reaction determines the numbers of all types of molecules present.
- The fact that atoms are conserved in chemical reactions, together with knowledge of the chemical properties of the elements involved, can be used to describe and predict chemical reactions.
- Conservation of energy means that the total change of energy in any system is always equal to the total energy transferred into or out of the system.
- Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transported from one place to another and transferred between systems.
- Mathematical expressions, which quantify how the energy stored in a system depends on its configuration (e.g., relative positions of charged particles, compression of a spring) and how kinetic energy depends on mass and speed, allow the concept of conservation of energy to be used to predict and describe system behavior.
- The availability of energy limits what can occur in any system.
- Uncontrolled systems always evolve toward more stable states—that is, toward more uniform energy distribution (e.g., water flows downhill, objects hotter than their surrounding environment cool down).
- Although energy cannot be destroyed, it can be converted to less useful forms—for example, to thermal energy in the surrounding environment.

#### *Life Science*

- Ecosystems have carrying capacities, which are limits to the numbers of organisms and populations they can support. These limits result from such factors as the availability of living and nonliving resources and from such challenges such as predation, competition, and disease. Organisms would have the capacity to produce populations of great size were it not for the fact that environments and resources are finite. This fundamental tension affects the abundance (number of individuals) of species in any given ecosystem.

#### **Links to Free and Low Cost Instructional Resources**

*Note- The majority of the student sense-making experiences found at these links predate the NGSS. Most will need to be modified to include science and engineering practices, disciplinary core ideas, and cross cutting concepts. [The EQUIP Rubrics for Science](#) can be used as a blueprint for evaluating and modifying instructional materials.*

- American Association for the Advancement of Science: <http://www.aaas.org/programs>
- American Association of Physics Teachers: <http://www.aapt.org/resources/>

- American Chemical Society: <http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/education.html>
- Concord Consortium: Virtual Simulations: <http://concord.org/>
- International Technology and Engineering Educators Association: <http://www.iteaconnect.org/>
- National Earth Science Teachers Association: <http://www.nestanet.org/php/index.php>
- National Science Digital Library: <https://nsdl.oercommons.org/>
- National Science Teachers Association: <http://ngss.nsta.org/Classroom-Resources.aspx>
- North American Association for Environmental Education: <http://www.naaee.net/>
- Phet: Interactive Simulations <https://phet.colorado.edu/>
- Physics Union Mathematics (PUM): <http://pum.rutgers.edu/>
- Science NetLinks: <http://www.aaas.org/program/science-netlinks>

## Appendix A: NGSS and Foundations for the Unit

Plan and conduct an investigation to provide evidence that the transfer of thermal energy when two components of different temperature are combined within a closed system results in a more uniform energy distribution among the components in the system (second law of thermodynamics). *[Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on analyzing data from student investigations and using mathematical thinking to describe the energy changes both quantitatively and conceptually. Examples of investigations could include mixing liquids at different initial temperatures or adding objects at different temperatures to water.] [Assessment Boundary: Assessment is limited to investigations based on materials and tools provided to students.] (HS-PS3-4)*

The performance expectations above were developed using the following elements from the NRC document *A Framework for K-12 Science Education*:

Science and Engineering Practices	Disciplinary Core Ideas	Crosscutting Concepts
<p><b>Planning and Carrying Out Investigations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and conduct an investigation individually and collaboratively to produce data to serve as the basis for evidence, and in the design: decide on types, how much, and accuracy of data needed to produce reliable measurements and consider limitations on the precision of the data (e.g., number of trials, cost, risk, time), and refine the design accordingly. (HS-PS3-4)</li> </ul>	<p><b>PS3.B: Conservation of Energy and Energy Transfer</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energy cannot be created or destroyed, but it can be transported from one place to another and transferred between systems. (HS-PS3-4)</li> <li>Uncontrolled systems always evolve toward more stable states—that is, toward more uniform energy distribution (e.g., water flows downhill, objects hotter than their surrounding environment cool down). (HS-PS3-4)</li> </ul> <p><b>PS3.D: Energy in Chemical Processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Although energy cannot be destroyed, it can be converted to less useful forms—for example, to thermal energy in the surrounding environment. (HS-PS3-4)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Systems and System Models</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When investigating or describing a system, the boundaries and initial conditions of the system need to be defined and their inputs and outputs analyzed and described using models. (HS-PS3-4)</li> </ul>

## Embedded English Language Arts/Literacy and Mathematics

## English Language Arts/Literacy

- RST.11-12.1** Cite specific textual evidence to support analysis of science and technical texts, attending to important distinctions the author makes and to any gaps or inconsistencies in the account. (HS-PS3-4)
- RST.11-12.8** Evaluate the hypotheses, data, analysis, and conclusions in a science or technical text, verifying the data when possible and corroborating or challenging conclusions with other sources of information. (HS-PS3-4)
- WHST.9-12.7** Conduct short as well as more sustained research projects to answer a question (including a self-generated question) or solve a problem; narrow or broaden the inquiry when appropriate; synthesize multiple sources on the subject, demonstrating understanding of the subject under

investigation. (HS-PS3-4)

**WHST.11-12.8** Gather relevant information from multiple authoritative print and digital sources, using advanced searches effectively; assess the strengths and limitations of each source in terms of the specific task, purpose, and audience; integrate information into the text selectively to maintain the flow of ideas, avoiding plagiarism and overreliance on any one source and following a standard format for citation. (HS-PS3-4)

**WHST.9-12.9** Draw evidence from informational texts to support analysis, reflection, and research. (HS-PS3-4)

*Mathematics*

**MP.2** Reason abstractly and quantitatively. (HS-PS3-4)

**MP.4** Model with mathematics. (HS-PS3-4)

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