

SAVVAS Topic 1 School to Home Letter

Dear Family Member or Caregiver,

In the Topic “Matter”, students learn about matter. The experiences in this topic are:

- Experience 1: Properties of Matter
- Experience 2: Solids, Liquids, and Gases
- Experience 3: Mixtures and Solutions

First, in Experience 1, students measure and observe physical properties of matter and compare and contrast matter based on its physical properties. Then, in Experience 2, students compare and contrast matter according to its physical state and illustrate how matter is made up of small particles. Finally, in Experience 3, students compare the properties of substances before and after they are combined into mixtures and solutions and demonstrate the conservation of matter.

The main content TEKS covered in this topic are:

- 5.6A: Compare and contrast matter based on measurable, testable, or observable physical properties, including mass, magnetism, relative density (sinking and floating using water as a reference point), physical state (solid, liquid, gas), volume, solubility in water, and the ability to conduct or insulate thermal energy and electric energy.
- 5.6B: Demonstrate and explain that some mixtures maintain physical properties of their substances such as iron filings and sand or sand and water.
- 5.6C: Compare the properties of substances before and after they are combined into a solution and demonstrate that matter is conserved in solutions.
- 5.6D: Illustrate how matter is made up of particles that are too small to be seen such as air in a balloon.

And the main SEPS and Recurring Themes and Concepts TEKS are:

- 5.1B: Use scientific practices to plan and conduct descriptive and simple experimental investigations and use engineering practices to design solutions to problems.
- 5.5A: Identify and use patterns to explain scientific phenomena or to design solutions.

One of the best ways for students to check on their learning is to explain it to someone else. Ask your student about their class experiences and ask them to explain the content that they are learning while at school in their own words or, if relevant, in their first language.