

Absolute zero

The point at which no more thermal energy can be removed from matter.

boiling

Vaporization that occurs on and below the surface of a liquid.

Celsius Scale

A common temperature used outside of the United States, where the freezing point of water is 0 degrees and the boiling point is 100 degrees.

change of state

The physical change of matter from one state to another.

condensation

The change from the gaseous to the liquid state of matter

conduction

The process when heat is transferred from one particle of matter to another without the movement of matter.

conductor

A material that conducts heat well.

convection

The transferring of heat by the movement of currents within a fluid.

convection current

The circular motion created by cooler water

evaporation

Vaporization that occurs at the surface of a liquid

external combustion  
engine

An engine powered  
by fuel burned  
outside the engine.

Fahrenheit Scale

The most common temperature  
scale in the United States, in  
which the freezing point of  
water is 32 degrees and the  
boiling point is 212 degrees.

freezing

The change from a  
liquid to the solid  
state of matter.

heat

Thermal energy that is  
transferred from matter at a  
higher temperature to matter  
at a lower temperature.

heat engine

A device that converts  
thermal energy into  
mechanical energy.

insulator

A material that does not conduct heat well.

internal combustion engine

An engine powered by fuel burned inside the engine.

Kelvin Scale

The temperature scale commonly used in physical science.

melting

The change from a solid to the liquid state of matter.

radiation

The transfer of energy by electromagnetic waves.

refrigerant	The substance that absorbs and releases heat in a cooling system.
specific heat	The amount of energy required to raise a temperature of 1 kilogram of a material by 1 kelvin.
states	One of the three forms in which all matter exists on Earth. (Solid, liquid and gas)
temperature	A measure of the average kinetic energy of the individual particles of matter
thermal expansion	The expansion of matter when it is heated