What’s Consistent About Matter?

Hands on science for elementary students
This physical science unit is about the states and properties of matter and different changes and interactions of matter. This unit prominently features the Crosscutting Concepts of Scale, Proportion, and Quantity, Matter and Energy, and Cause and Effect. The unit begins with a discussion of matter and the common states of matter, including exploration of whether or not air is matter. Then students describe and classify matter based on common physical properties. Students also learn how to measure matter.

After gaining an understanding of matter and its properties, students explore how different substances interact as both mixtures and solutions. They attempt to separate mixtures and test whether or not matter is conserved when substances are mixed or separated.

Finally, students explore common physical and chemical changes of matter and learn how to determine what kind of change may have occurred.

The understanding gained in this unit is applied in the design challenge, where students describe the states of matter, changes of state, physical changes, and chemical changes involved in cooking a meal.