READING MATERIAL

Read About Sunlight

DEFINITION OF SUNLIGHT

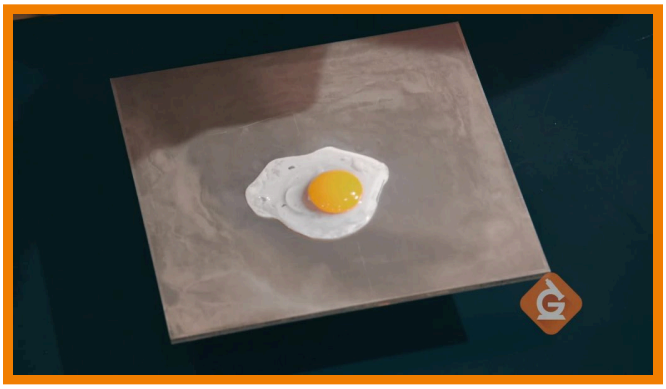
Light from the sun is called sunlight and it shines down on the Earth's surface. Sunlight causes the Earth's surface to heat up. Some things heat up faster than others. In some places the ground can get so hot you can cook an egg on it!

To better understand how sunlight warms the Earth...

LET'S BREAK IT DOWN!

Sunlight causes things to melt.

Melting is when a solid changes into a liquid. Sunlight can speed up the melting process of things like a popsicle.

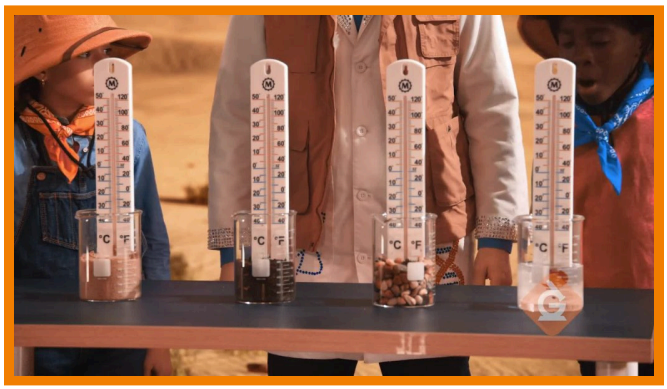


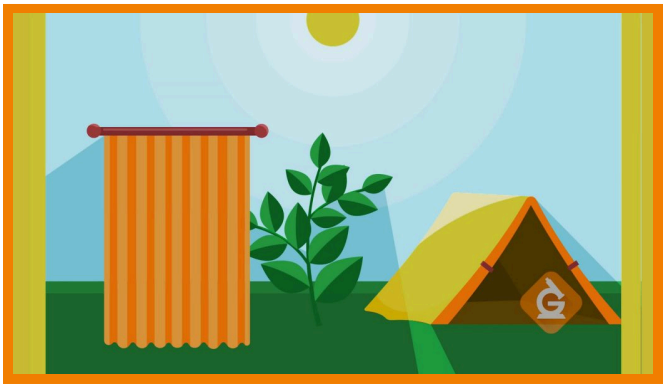
Sunlight causes Earth's surfaces to heat up.

Sunlight can cause some surfaces to heat up to very high temperatures. Some surfaces can get hot enough to fry an egg.

Thermometers are useful scientific tools.

A thermometer is a tool that can measure how hot something is. We can find the temperature of something by reading a thermometer.





Different materials can provide shade.

We can use different materials to make shade. A curtain, a tent or even a plant can provide shade from the sun.

Some materials provide more shade than others.

A window does not provide as much shade as a piece of wood. Materials that are more see through are not as good at providing shade as solid materials.

SUNLIGHT VOCABULARY

Sunlight	Light that comes from the sun and warms the earth.
Heat	To warm something up.

Shade	Reduces warming caused by the sun.
Thermometer	A tool used to measure temperature.
Temperature	How hot or cold something is.
Melting	When something changes from a solid to a liquid.

QUESTIONS ABOUT SUNLIGHT

How can you slow down the melting of a popsicle?

You can move to a shady area, so that the sunlight can't heat up the popsicle.

Why is it possible to cook an egg on a solid surface in the desert?

Sunlight heats up the surface to make it hot enough to cook an egg.

How can you prove that different materials heat up differently with sunlight?

You can use a thermometer to measure the temperature of different materials over time.

What kinds of shade are better than others?

Thicker things and things that are not see through are better sources of shade. For example, a curtain provides more shade than a window.

Why does an ice cube in a box melt slower than an ice cube outside of the box?

The ice cube in the box has shade. This slows down the melting process.

What are some different kinds of surfaces found on the Earth?

The Earth has many surfaces such as water, grass, sand, soil and snow.