



Colors and Heat

Grade Levels: 1-4

Background

Light energy can turn into heat when it hits an object. Light can also be reflected from an object so it doesn't turn into heat.

Question

Do different colors of paper reflect heat differently?

Possible Hypothesis

_____ colors reflect heat better.

Materials

- Variety of colored paper, including black and white
- Ice cubes that are all the same size
- Clock or stopwatch

Procedure

1. On a warm sunny day, place the colored paper on the ground. Make sure that all of the sheets of paper receive the same amount of sunlight. Put one ice cube on each sheet of paper.
2. Begin timing and record the time each cube takes to melt. Record your answers.

Analysis and Conclusion

Did the ice cubes melt at the same speed? Did the ice cubes on the lighter colored paper melt differently than the cubes on the darker paper?

Real World Connection

How could this affect your daily life? If you wanted to stay cool on a sunny day, what color might you wear?

