

Physics > Big idea PMA: Matter > Topic PMA2: Floating and sinking

Key concept (age 11-14)

PMA2.3: Convection

Progression toolkit: Convection

Learning focus	Convection is a process that transfers energy through a fluid, as warmer less dense regions of fluid rise and cooler more dense regions of fluid sink.				
As students' conceptual understanding progresses they can:	Describe how the properties of particles in a gas change as the gas is heated.	Describe convection currents in liquids and gases.	Explain what happens to the density of a gas when it is heated.	Explain what causes convection currents.	Explain how convection currents transfer energy through a fluid.
Diagnostic questions	Hotter gas	KMnO₄!	Hot air balloon	Hot air	Electric kettle
Response activities			Hot air flask	No shakes	Steam and ice?

Key:

P Prior understanding from earlier stages of learning



