

Physics > Big idea PMA: Matter > Topic PMA3: Energy of moving particles

Key concept (age 14-16)

PMA3.2: Specific heat capacity

Learning focus	Specific heat capacity is the amount of energy added to the thermal store of a material in order to increase the temperature of 1kg of that material by 1°C.				
As students' conceptual understanding progresses they can:	Distinguish between energy in the thermal store of an object and the object's temperature.	Describe what a material's specific heat capacity indicates about the amount of energy transferred as it changes temperature.	Explain why a material's specific heat capacity affects the rate at which its temperature will change as its thermal store gains or loses energy.	Predict how one quantity in the equation $\Delta E = mc\Delta\Theta$ is affected by changes to other quantities.	Make calculations using the equation $\Delta E = mc\Delta\Theta$.
Diagnostic questions	Hot water	- Metal and ice	Hot drinks	Side-by-side	Rearranging specific heat capacity
	Fresh bread		Bed warmers	Energy in a thermal store Temperature change	
Response activities		Calorimeters	Hot water bottle		

Key:

Prior understanding from earlier stages of learning







