

Use a Particle Model With Care



Name: _____ Date: _____

Use the material to work through each task. Show the requested response.

A simplified particle model

In a solid model, particles remain near relatively fixed positions while vibrating. In a liquid model, nearby particles can move past one another. In a gas model, particles are more widely separated and move through the available space. Particle pictures are not actual-scale photographs.

1. Which model allows nearby particles to move past each other?

2. Which model has particles vibrating around relatively fixed positions?

3. Explain why a gas occupies available container space.

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4. When a solid melts, must its particles themselves melt into liquid blobs?

5. Sketch particle models for solid, liquid and gas.

6. Why should dot size in a sketch not be used to infer actual particle size?
