

## Vocabulary: Phase Changes



### Vocabulary

- Altitude – vertical distance, or elevation, above sea level.
- Boil – change from a liquid to a gas.
- Boiling point – the temperature at which boiling occurs.
  - At sea level, the boiling point of water is 100 °C (212 °F).
  - Water boils at lower temperatures at higher altitudes because air pressure is lower there.
- Freeze – change from a liquid to a solid.
- Freezing point – the temperature at which freezing occurs.
  - At sea level, the freezing point of water is 0 °C (32 °F).
- Gas – a phase in which matter has no definite shape or volume.
  - A gas will expand to fill any container. A gas can also be compressed.
  - Molecules in a gas are relatively far apart and move freely.
  - Water in the gas phase is called *water vapor*.
- Liquid – a phase in which matter has definite volume but no definite shape.
  - A liquid will take the shape of a container but cannot expand or be compressed.
  - Molecules in a liquid move randomly but stay close to one another.
- Melt – change from a solid to a liquid.
- Melting point – the temperature at which melting occurs.
  - At sea level, the melting point of ice is 0 °C (32 °F).
- Phase – a state of matter with certain physical properties.
  - Solid, liquid, and gas phases occur naturally on Earth.
  - *Plasma* is a phase found in stars.
- Solid – a phase in which matter has a definite shape and a definite volume.
  - A solid will retain the same shape and volume in any container.
  - Atoms in a solid are held in a rigid structure and cannot move freely.
  - Water in the solid phase is called *ice*.

