

The Science Lab

CONCEPT BUILDER: IS METAL COLDER THAN WOOD / PLASTIC?

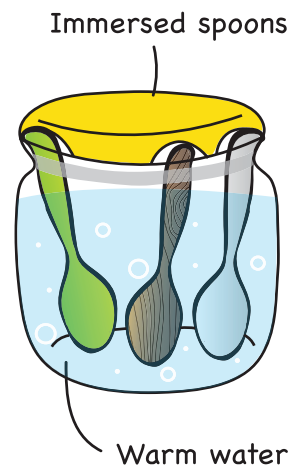
Imagine:

A metal spoon, a wooden spoon, and a plastic spoon are placed in hot water for half a day. The water is maintained at the same temperature throughout.

Predict:

At the end of the experiment, the spoons are taken out and their temperature is measured immediately. Which of the following is likely to have the highest temperature?

- The metal spoon
- The plastic spoon
- The wooden spoon
- All three spoons will have almost the same temperature



Explain:

Your reason for choosing the outcome you predicted.

Discuss:

- How would you test if your response is correct?
- What are some ways to measure and compare the temperature of the spoons?
- Would your answer change if you used a different way? Why?
- What if you also kept a steel spoon in the hot water – which spoon would be the hottest?
- If the spoons were kept in the fridge instead of warm water, which spoon would be coldest?



Contributed by:

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