
Sample Science Text

“Using a Thermometer”

Many thermometers are thin glass tubes filled with a liquid.(1) Mercury and alcohol are often used in thermometers because they remain in liquid form over a large temperature range.(2)

Thermometers can measure temperature because of a property called thermal expansion.(3)

Thermal expansion is the increase in volume of a substance because of an increase in temperature.(4) As a substance’s temperature increases, its particles move faster and spread out.(5) So, there is more space between them, and the substance expands.(6) Mercury and alcohol expand by constant amounts for a given change in temperature.(7)

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