



Heat from the Sun - Teacher's Notes

Heat from the Sun

Our Sun radiates heat energy towards earth and most of it is bounced straight back into space off reflective (shiny) surfaces such as snow, ice, water and clouds.

How can we demonstrate that this heat comes from the Sun?

Background research questions. Answer with your best guess.

1. Is it usually warmer at night or during the day?
During the day
2. Why is this so?
During the day, our part of Earth is turned towards the Sun
3. When is the warmest time of day?
Midday, because the Sun is directly overhead. (Less heat is lost through the atmosphere).
4. If you face the Sun, which part of your body is warmest, your back or your front?
Your front
5. Which parts of the immediate school area are cool, warm and hot?
This is a poor question because different people have different ideas as to what is hot and what is cool.
6. What do we use to measure heat? A thermometer (thermo=heat, meter=measurer)

