

changes include grinding, cutting, melting, and boiling a material. These types of changes do not change the identity of the substance present.

Melting and boiling are part of an important class of physical changes called changes of state. As the name suggests, a **change of state** is a physical change of a substance from one state to another. The three common states of matter are solid, liquid, and gas.

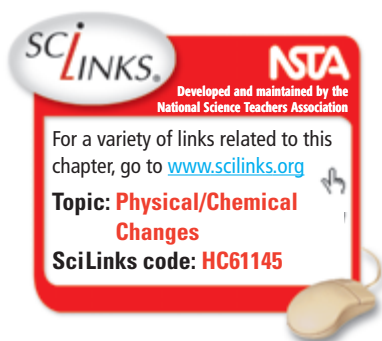
Matter in the **solid** state has definite volume and definite shape. For example, a piece of quartz or coal keeps its size and its shape, regardless of the container it is in. Solids have this characteristic because the particles in them are packed together in relatively fixed positions. The particles are held close together by the strong attractive forces between them, and only vibrate about fixed points.

Matter in the **liquid** state has a definite volume but an indefinite shape; a liquid assumes the shape of its container. For example, a given quantity of liquid water takes up a definite amount of space, but the water takes the shape of its container. Liquids have this characteristic because the particles in them are close together but can move past one another. The particles in a liquid move more rapidly than those in a solid. This causes them to overcome temporarily the strong attractive forces between them, allowing the liquid to flow.

Matter in the **gas** state has neither definite volume nor definite shape. For example, a given quantity of helium expands to fill any size container and takes the shape of the container. All gases have this characteristic because they are composed of particles that move very rapidly and are at great distances from one another compared with the particles of liquids and solids. At these great distances, the attractive forces between gas particles have less of an effect than they do at the small distances between particles of liquids and solids.

An important fourth state of matter is **plasma**. Plasma is a high-temperature physical state of matter in which atoms lose most of their electrons, particles that make up atoms. Plasma is found in fluorescent bulbs.

Melting, the change from solid to liquid, is an example of a change of state. Boiling is a change of state from liquid to gas. Freezing, the opposite of melting, is the change from a liquid to a solid. A change of state does not affect the identity of the substance. For example, when ice melts to liquid water or when liquid water boils to form water vapor, the same substance, water, is still present, as shown in **Figure 6**. The water has simply changed state, but it has not turned into a different compound. Only the distances and interactions between the particles that make up water have changed.



**FIGURE 5** Because it possesses certain chemical properties, a test strip containing Benedict's solution is used to test for the presence of sugar in urine. The test strip is dipped into the sample. The test strip is then matched to a color scale to determine the sugar level in the urine.

## Chemical Properties and Chemical Changes

Physical properties can be observed without changing the identity of the substance, but properties of the second type—chemical properties—cannot. A **chemical property** relates to a substance's ability to undergo changes that transform it into different substances. Chemical properties are easiest to see when