



FIGURE 1-6 Models for water in three states. The molecules are close together in the solid and liquid states but far apart in the gas state. The molecules in the solid state are relatively fixed in position, but those in the liquid and gas states can flow around each other.

For example, the ability of charcoal (carbon) to burn in air is a chemical property. When charcoal burns, it combines with oxygen in air to become a new substance, carbon dioxide gas. After the chemical change, the original substances, carbon and oxygen, are no longer present. A different substance with different properties has been formed. Other examples of chemical properties include the ability of iron to rust by combining with oxygen in air and the ability of silver to tarnish by combining with sulfur.

*A change in which one or more substances are converted into different substances is called a **chemical change** or **chemical reaction**. The substances that react in a chemical change are called the **reactants**. The substances that are formed by the chemical change are called the **products**. In the case of burning charcoal, carbon and oxygen are the reactants in a combustion, or burning, reaction. Carbon dioxide is the product. The chemical change can be described as follows:*

Carbon plus oxygen yields (or forms) carbon dioxide.

Arrows and plus signs can be substituted for the words *yields* and *plus*, respectively:

