

Investigating Reversible and Irreversible Changes

Below are a few tasks you may wish to carry out at home (with adult supervision) to explore reversible and irreversible changes. Think about your scientific skills as you carry out the investigations. How will you identify whether a change has occurred? Was the change reversible or irreversible? (Think back to your understanding of states of matter)



Investigation 1:

Observe ice cream melting. What causes it to melt? What do you notice about the state of matter of the ice-cream? Is the change reversible? How do you know?



Investigation 2:

Choose a slice of bread. Make some observations of the bread before and after it is toasted. Has a change occurred once the bread has been toasted? What has changed/what has stayed the same? Is the change reversible? How do you know?



Investigation 3:

Pour 300ml of water in to a saucepan. Ask your adult to place the saucepan on the hob at a medium heat. What do you observe happening as the water? How will you know when the water has boiled? Make a prediction stating whether you think you have observed a change that is reversible or irreversible. What changes occurred?

Investigation 4: Create your own investigation to explore reversible and irreversible changes.