

What Are Conductors and Insulators?

Science Words

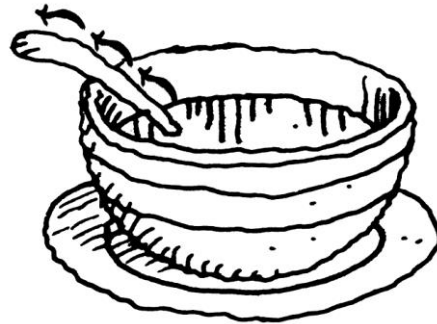
Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

conductor [kuhn·DUHK·ter] a material that allows heat to move through it easily

A tour *conductor* is a person who helps others move through an area easily. A material that is a *conductor* allows heat to move through it easily.

The metal spoon is a conductor.
Heat passes from the soup through
the spoon, which becomes warm.
The arrows show the movement of
heat through the spoon.

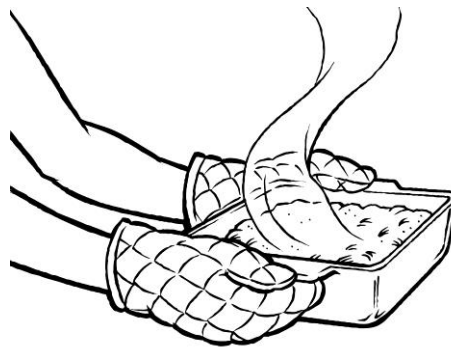


insulator [IN·suh·layt·er] a material that does not conduct heat well

Insulator contains the word *in*. An *insulator* keeps heat in.

Most winter gloves are lined with *insulation*. The *insulation* traps heat and slows the movement of heat away from the body. Something that is an *insulator* slows the movement of heat.

The material used to make
these oven mitts is an insulator.
The material does not allow
heat from the pan to pass
through it.



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Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. A conductor allows heat to move through it easily.
2. In general, solids are better conductors of heat than liquids or gases.
3. Metal is a good conductor of heat, but glass is not a good conductor.
4. An insulator does not conduct heat well.
5. An oven mitt is made from material that does not conduct heat well.
6. Gases are good insulators.
8. Layers of clothing help keep you warm because air between the layers traps your body heat.
9. Fur helps keep an animal warm because air around the hairs traps the animal's body heat.
10. Insulation in the walls of a house keeps heat from passing through to the attic.