States of Water

Introduction to Water States

Water exists in three states: solid (ice), liquid (water), and gas (water vapour). These states differ in their physical properties such as shape, volume, and ability to flow. Ice is solid, hard, and retains its shape. Water is liquid, flows, and takes the shape of its container. Water vapour is a gas that spreads out and fills the available space.

Changing States of Water

Water changes from one state to another by heating or cooling. When ice melts, it turns into liquid water. When water freezes, it becomes ice. When water evaporates, it changes into water vapour. Condensation is the process where water vapour cools and turns back into liquid water. These changes are physical changes and do not alter the chemical composition of water (H□6O).

Evaporation and Condensation

Evaporation is the process where liquid water turns into water vapour due to heat. It occurs on surfaces like puddles, wet clothes, and utensils. Condensation is the reverse

process where water vapour cools and forms liquid droplets, such as dew on plants or water droplets on a cold glass.

Factors Affecting Evaporation

The rate of evaporation depends on several factors:

- **Temperature:** Higher temperatures increase evaporation rate.
- **Surface Area:** Larger surface area allows more water to evaporate.
- **Air Movement:** Wind or air flow speeds up evaporation by removing water vapour.
- **Humidity:** Lower humidity (dry air) increases evaporation rate.

Water Cycle

The water cycle is the continuous movement of water between the Earth's surface and the atmosphere. It involves evaporation, condensation, precipitation (rain, hail, snow), and collection. This cycle maintains the balance of water on Earth and supports life.

Solved Examples

Example 1: Explain why water stored in an earthen pot feels cooler than water stored in a steel pot.

Solution: Water seeps through the tiny pores of the earthen pot and evaporates from its surface. Evaporation requires heat, which is taken from the water inside the pot, causing the water to cool. In contrast, a steel pot does not allow seepage or evaporation, so the water remains at ambient temperature.

Example 2: Why do wet clothes dry faster on a windy day than on a calm day?

Solution: Wind increases air movement around the wet clothes, removing the water vapour quickly and allowing more water to evaporate. This speeds up the drying process compared to a calm day with little air movement.

Practice Set

Conceptual Questions:

- **Level 1:** What are the three states of water? Describe one characteristic of each.
- **Level 2:** Explain why water vapour condenses to form dew on cool surfaces.

Application-based Question:

- **Level 3:** Design an experiment to investigate the effect of surface area on the rate of evaporation of water.

Answer Key

Conceptual Questions:

- **Level 1:** The three states of water are solid (ice) which is hard and retains shape, liquid (water) which flows and takes the shape of the container, and gas (water vapour) which spreads out and fills the space.
- **Level 2:** Water vapour condenses on cool surfaces because the temperature of the surface lowers the temperature of the water vapour, causing it to change from gas to liquid, forming dew.

Application-based Question:

- **Level 3:** Take two containers with equal amounts of water but different surface areas (e.g., a narrow glass and a wide plate). Keep them in the same environment and measure the time taken for the water to evaporate completely. The container with larger surface area will show faster evaporation.

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