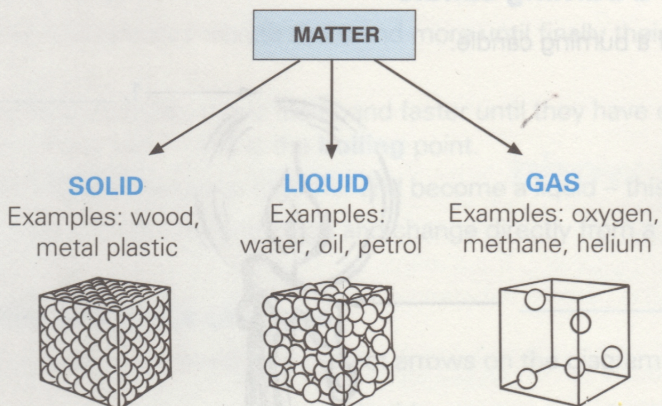


The states of matter

Matter is normally grouped into three **states** – solid, liquid or gas – depending on how the particles or molecules of a substance are arranged. There's another state, called **plasma**, occurring at extremely high temperatures. Plasma is similar to gas. It is found in neon signs and makes up stars.



Solid

In solids, the particles are packed together closely; they can only vibrate a little, are strongly attracted to one another, are a fixed shape and they can't be compressed (squashed).

Liquid

In liquids, the particles move around more freely but are still touching, are weakly attracted, are in no fixed shape and can be very slightly compressed.

Gas

The particles have a lot of energy, they are spaced widely apart, are free to move around randomly, are not attracted to one another, are in no fixed shape and are easily compressed.

Activity – Particles

Fill in the chart with details about the three states of matter:

Particle description	Solid	Liquid	Gas
Spacing			
Movement			
Attraction			
Shape			
Compression			