

**LESSON**  
**3**  
**ACTIVITY**

# What's the Matter?

## Defining Matter

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

**Purpose**

To decide what is and what isn't matter and to define matter.

**Questions**

1. Discuss the items listed with your group. Decide which things in the list are matter. Use the table to divide the items into three categories.

batteries	heat	electricity	fear	dust
DNA	helium	bacteria	wind	atoms
sound	clouds	car exhaust	wisdom	fire

Matter	Unsure	Not matter

2. In your group, discuss the common properties, or characteristics, of the items in the matter category. Below, create a list of those properties that apply to *all* items that are matter.
3. In your group, examine your list of properties. Use them to write a definition of matter.
4. **Making Sense** Pick one of the items you consider to be "not matter." Explain why you believe that item is not matter by showing how it doesn't fit your definition of matter.
5. **If You Finish Early** Some of the items on the list, such as wind, can be categorized as the movement of matter. List some other things that describe the movement of matter.