MATERIALS: REVERSIBLE AND IRREVERSIBLE CHANGES



Year Five | Spring 2

KEY FACTS

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Materials can be changed by combining them with other materials. Sometimes these changes can be reversed, sometimes they cannot.

Reversible changes:

- □ Separating mixtures: a mixture of rice and water can be easily separated out again: neither the water nor the rice has changed.
- Dissolving: A material that dissolves is called a solute; the liquid in which it dissolves is the solvent; the resulting liquid is the solution.
- □ Some substances, such as salt and sugar, dissolve in water.
- □ Even though we cannot see them, we can tell that they are there by tasting the solution.
- Dissolving can be reversed by boiling. This causes the water to evaporate: (turn into a gas) and escape from the beaker. The salt or sugar remain. They are solids.

Irreversible changes

- Some changes result in the formation of new materials, for example combining eggs, flour, sugar and butter to make a cake, burning wood or making scrambled eggs.
- □ This kind of change is not usually reversible; we cannot get the original ingredients back.

WORKING SCIENTIFICALLY





KEY VOCABULARY







SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE



Jabir ibn Hayyan was a 9th century Persian chemist known as the father of modern chemistry. He was the first person to discover the process of distillation.

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- **dissolve:** to combine a solid with a liquid to make solution
- distillation: the process of capturing the liquid that has evaporated from a solution
- evaporation: the process by the which a liquid turns into a gas when heated
- filtration: the process of separating a mixture of solids and liquids using a filter
- **irreversible/chemical change:** a change that cannot be undone
- mixture: two or more substances that can be separated
- reversible/physical change: a change that can be undone
- **soluble:** a property of a solid which means that it can dissolve
- solution: mixture of solid and liquid in which the solid is no longer visible
- **solute:** the solid material that dissolves in a liquid
- **solvent:** the liquid into which a solid dissolves