Creative Crayons
Investigation #4

Description
Create new crayon shapes and colors in this fun investigation!

Materials
- Old crayons
- Silicone shape molds
- Microwave
- Scissors
- Knife
- Toothpick

Procedure
1) Peel the paper off old crayons.
2) Break or cut the crayons into small parts. Place the pieces in a silicone mold, mixing colors as desired.
3) Place the mold in the microwave and set for 1 minute.
4) Remove the molds and stir each with a toothpick.
5) Heat for another minute and check each with a toothpick.
6) Once they have cooled, peel each out of the mold.
7) Try coloring with the blended shaped crayon.
My Results

Explanation
Wax is a solid substance at room temperature but will soften at 105 degrees Fahrenheit and then melt in the range of 120 to 147 degrees. This should be kept in mind if using crayons on a sunny day, as crayons can soften or even melt in the sun. As the temperature cools, the materials bond back together and take the new shape of the mold. This is a great example of a physical change, going from a solid, to a liquid, and back to a solid.

Think about this. A lot of science is involved in burning a wax candle. Do you ever wonder where the wax goes when it is burned? To understand, we need to look at the structure of wax, which is made up of long chains of fatty acids linked to alcohols or carbon atoms. When heated by the flame, the hydrogen and carbon atoms react with the oxygen and produce water vapor and carbon dioxide as gases in the air, as well as giving off both heat and light. In time, all the candle wax can burn away, which looks as though the candle is disappearing.

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