



a WOW Lab

BLUEPRINT

Weather Station

Glossary

condensation - the change in state of matter from the gaseous phase into the liquid phase. Condensation is the reverse of evaporation.

diffraction - occurs when a wave encounters an obstacle. There is an apparent bending of waves around small obstacles and the spreading out of waves past small openings. Diffraction occurs with all waves.

diffraction grating - an optical component that splits and disperses a beam of light into its wavelengths to produce its spectrum. The directions of these beams depend on the spacing of the grating and the wavelength of the light.

nucleation - the formation of a new crystal nuclei in the crystallization process or formation of vapour bubbles in a super heated liquid.

nucleation site - the location where crystallization occurs.

polymer - a large compound made of many small subunits, or monomers.

saturated solution - a solution in which the maximum amount of solute has been dissolved. Any more solute added will sit as crystals on the bottom of the container.

seed crystals - a small piece of a single crystal. A larger crystal can be grown by dipping the seed into a supersaturated solution, into molten material that is then cooled, or by growth on the seed face by passing vapour of the material to be grown over it.

supersaturated solution - a solution that contains more of the dissolved material than could be dissolved by the solvent under normal conditions.

vortex - the motion of a fluid swirling rapidly around a center. The speed and rate of rotation of the fluid are greatest at the centre and decrease progressively with distance from the centre.