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#### IAN page

## THE UPS AND DOWNS OF THERMOMETERS



To be able to describe, on a molecular level, why the liquid in a thermometer goes up when it is heated and down when it is cooled.

# Key Concepts: We will come back to these after the activity.

### Why do you think the liquid in a thermometer moves up and down when it is heated and cooled?

#### Do the Activity, Part A and Part B. (15 minutes)

Animation of the molecules of liquid in a thermometer as they are heated and cooled:

## While the animation is playing, draw (<u>in your IAN</u>) circles to represent alcohol molecules when the liquid is <u>hot</u> and when the liquid is <u>cold</u>.

**Thermometer Animation** 



## Key Concepts:

The way a thermometer works is an example of heating and cooling liquid.

- When heated, the molecules of the liquid in the thermometer move faster, causing them to get a little further apart. This results in movement up the thermometer.
- When cooled, the molecules of the liquid in the thermometer move slower, causing them to get a little closer together. This results in movement down the thermometer.