

Canned Heat: Heating Up [Experiment]

This experiment allows a comparison of the thermal absorption of different surfaces. The surfaces are black, white, and silver. The data-taking is slow; the more restless students will find it somewhat tedious. But time is a critical element in this experiment, so the tedium must be endured!

Answers to Summing Up Questions

1. Fastest: black, slowest: silver.
2. White T-shirt is better; it doesn't absorb radiant energy as quickly as black does.
3. Silver: mostly reflected, black: mostly absorbed, white: mostly reflected.