



## What's the Matter?: A Physical Science Unit for High-Ability Learners in Grades 2-3 (William & Mary Units)

By Center for Gifted Education

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*What's the Matter?* is a field-tested physical science unit for high-ability learners in grades 2–3. In this unit, students work on solving real-world scenarios by using their newly discovered knowledge of matter, the measurement of matter, and change in physical properties. At the end of this 15-lesson unit, students present their data in a classroom "science conference."

*What's the Matter?*, a Project Clarion Primary Science Unit, utilizes a hands-on, constructivist approach that allows children to build their knowledge base and skills while they explore science topics through play and planned investigations. The overarching concept of change is used to deepen understanding of the scientific concepts in the unit.

Winner of the 2010 NAGC Curriculum Studies Award, *What's the Matter?* was developed by the Center for Gifted Education at The College of William and Mary, to offer advanced curriculum supported by years of research. The Center's materials have received national recognition from the United States Department of Education and the National Association for Gifted Children, and they are widely used both nationally and internationally.

Each of the books in this series offers curriculum that focuses on advanced content and higher level processes. The science units contain simulations of real-world problems, and students experience the work of real science by using data-handling skills, analyzing information, and evaluating results. The mathematics units provide sophisticated ideas and concepts, challenging extensions, higher order thinking skills, and opportunities for student exploration based on interest. These materials are a must for any teacher seeking to challenge and engage learners and increase achievement.

Grades 2–3

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### **Editorial Review**

#### About the Author

The Center for Gifted Education at The College of William and Mary, a research and development center, was established in 1988 under the direction of Dr. Joyce VanTassel-Baska. The center provides services to educators, policy makers, graduate students, researchers, parents, and students in support of the needs of gifted and talented individuals. Located in Williamsburg, VA, the center has established a national reputation for excellence in research, curriculum development, and service. Several major grants, including funding from the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act, have provided significant support for the work of the Center.

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