Thermal Energy Transfer

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Type of Transfer	Explanation/Definition	Examples
Conduction	 Energy transfer when two objects are touching. Heat travels because the kinetic energy of the molecule is passed from molecule to molecule. When a molecule begins to vibrate quickly it collides with a neighboring molecule, which causes it to begin vibrating. 	 A spoon that is heated by being placed in a pot of hot soup.
Convection	 Heat transfer that occurs in liquids and gasses. When a fluid is heated its molecules expand and it becomes less dense. It then rises to the top (floats). The fluid at the top is now denser and sinks to the bottom. This keeps repeating over and over. 	 Boiling a pot of water on the stove. Heating air.
Radiation	 Heat transfer between two objects that are not touching. Radiation travels in waves through space. When radiation (waves) strike an object they are absorbed. This causes the object's temperature to increase. 	Sun heating the Earth's surface.