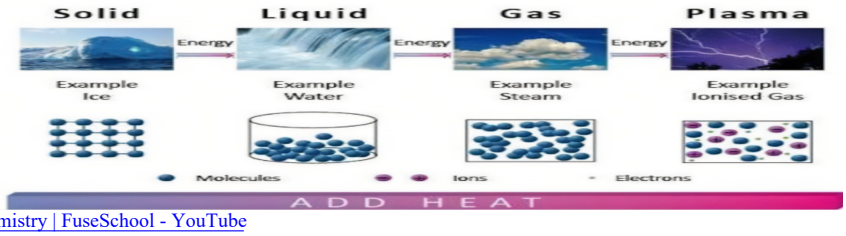
Plasma



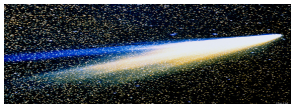
What Is Plasma | Properties of Matter | Chemistry | FuseSchool - YouTube

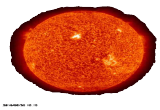
Plasma is superheated matter – so hot that the electrons are ripped away from the atoms forming an ionized gas.

It makes up over 99% of the visible universe.

Plasma is often called "the fourth state of matter," along with solid, liquid and gas.

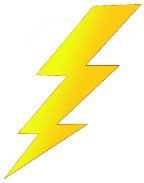
Just as a liquid will boil, changing into a gas when energy is added, heating a gas will form a plasma – a soup of positively charged particles (ions) and negatively charged particles (electrons).





In the night sky, plasma glows in the form of stars, nebulas, and even the auroras that sometimes ripple above the north and south poles.

That branch of lightning that cracks the sky is plasma, so are the neon signs along our city streets. And so is our sun, the star that makes life on earth possible.



Here are 10 examples of forms of plasma:

1. lightning
2. aurorae
3. the excited low-pressure gas inside neon signs and fluorescent lights
4. solar wind
5. welding arcs
6. the Earth's ionosphere
7. stars (including the Sun)
8. the tail of a comet
9. interstellar gas clouds
10. a fireball of a nuclear explosion