

The Candle Is a Fuel

TEACHER DEMO

RUN AT 12:20

10 MIN

The point

Wax is **stored energy**. Burning lets it out — as heat AND light at once — and the wax's tiny particles are NOT destroyed: like a block tower falling, the blocks all remain; only the arrangement changes.

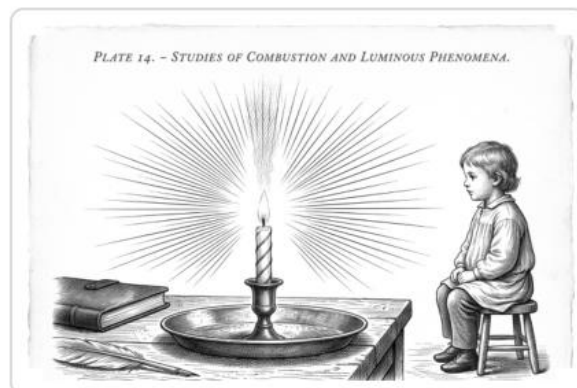
Materials

- Birthday candles • metal tray
- Long-reach lighter + snuffer (A-7 kit)

Steps

- 1 **PREDICT on the worksheet:** the wax will stay the same / slowly get shorter; its stored energy leaves as nothing / heat and light.
- 2 Teacher lights one birthday candle standing on the metal tray. Kids observe from a seated ring.
- 3 Feel-from-a-distance: palms toward the flame — heat arriving. Eyes: light arriving. TWO forms leaving at once.
- 4 Watch the candle shorten. Where is the wax going? NOT into nothing — its particles go off into the air; only the STORED ENERGY has left.
- 5 Snuff it. The wax that remains is the same stuff it always was.

Say: "Wax is a fuel — sunshine a plant packed away long ago. Burning does not destroy the blocks; it only lets the tower down, and the energy comes out as heat and light."



TEACHER PREP

Candle upright on the tray before kids arrive; lighter and snuffer stay in adult reach; hair tied back in the ring.

What to watch for

- The two-forms moment: heat to the palms AND light to the eyes, simultaneously
- The shortening wax — revisit at the end of session for proof
- The block-tower phrasing for atoms-remain — use it verbatim

EXPECTED RESULT

The candle burns shorter, giving heat and light together; the group can say where the wax went and what actually left it — energy, not matter.