

I taught my roommates about thermal phenomena while I was cooking dinner. I told them to touch the wooden handle of our pot, and then to touch the metal of pot itself while it was still cool. Then I asked them which felt cooler. Of course, they said the metal felt cooler. I explained to them what I learned in class about how each object conducts heat differently. I asked them, once everything was heated up, to touch the wooden handle of the pot, which they did. Then, I asked them to touch the metal, and they wouldn't. They already knew that the metal would be very hot, so they had the knowledge that metal was a good conductor of heat. This meant that the metal would get very hot, very quickly. They were amazed by the fact that metal was in fact the same temperature as the wooden handle while they were both cool, but metal conducted heat from our body and felt cooler though it really wasn't. It was interesting to explain this to them, because they had never thought about such every day phenomena before, and now they know why metal always feels so cool.