Water Cools Slower than Air

Why is it warmer in summer and milder in winter near the ocean than it is inland?

**What to do:** Put the two glasses in the refrigerator for 15 minutes.

**What happens:** The water-filled glass feels warmer than the empty glass.

**Why:** The “empty” glass is, of course, filled with air. Both air and glass lose their heat much more rapidly than water. The glass filled with water does not let the cold air in and the water keeps the glass warmer longer. That’s the reason the world’s oceans help to store up warmth from the sun. In winter, the oceans cool off more slowly than the land, so a city near an ocean stays warmer in winter than an inland city. Oceans also warm up more slowly in summer, so a seaside city has a milder summer, too.

**YOU NEED**
- empty drinking glass
- drinking glass filled with water