

# **SHIKA EXPRESS - CHEMISTRY**

## **Version 1.0 TZ**

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HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES COMPANION GUIDE  
TANZANIA

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TEACHER'S GUIDE

June 6, 2014

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# **Part I**

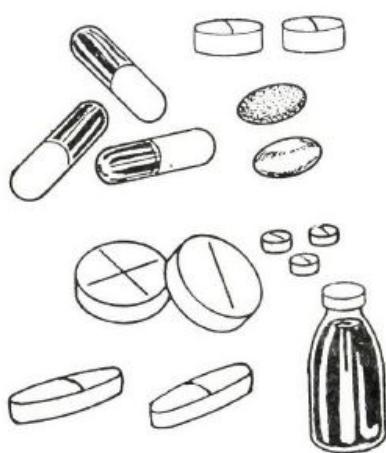
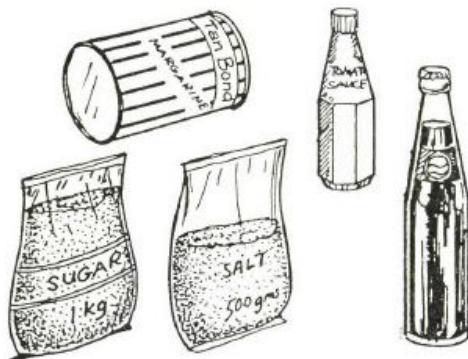
## **Hands-On Activities**

# Chemistry Activities for Form I

## 1.1 Introduction to Chemistry

Chemistry plays a very important role in our daily life. Many processes at home, particularly in the kitchen, are chemical processes we rarely spend a day without using products from parts of the chemical industry such as the pharmaceutical industry, the food industry, the paper industry and the petroleum industry to name a few.

### 1.1.1 Chemical Products



During an introduction to chemistry students should be shown where their lives and the products they use link in with the chemical industry. Students' own experience of chemistry comes from their daily lives and not from working in a laboratory. A student's environment is their chemistry lab!

### 1.1.2 Pollution and Chemistry



**Procedure:** In order to demonstrate the importance of chemistry in daily life, ask the students to display and label things produced by chemists. Ask them to arrange similar products together.

**Procedure:** In order to build up an awareness of pollution in our environment, let the students describe some situations where pollution of air, water and soil happen.

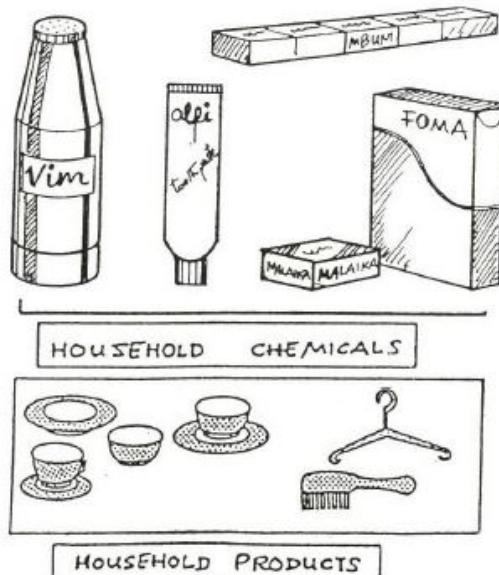
**Questions:** What can be done to reduce these forms of pollution?

### 1.1.3 Making an Excursion



**Procedure:** It can be stimulating to make an excursion around the school ground, to find out where chemical processes can be observed. There can be natural ones like the decomposition of organic substances, cooking, alcoholic drink production, etc.

### 1.1.4 Posters of Chemical Products



**Materials:** Manila paper, marker pens, newspapers, scissors

**Procedure:** Instead of displaying real products, posters can be made in groups with pictures cut out from newspapers. For language training let the pupils talk about their work and what the posters show.

### 1.1.5 We Are All Chemists



**Procedure:** Students should understand that we are all chemists and not only those people working in a chemical lab. Let them try out examples of chemical processes with locally available materials.

- Carefully burn some paper, wood, fuel or ignite a matchstick.
- Add some lemon juice to a cup of tea and observe the colour change.
- Let a glass of milk go sour.
- Rub some red or pink petals from flowers on wet soap firmly and observe the change of the colour.
- Try to find some more examples.

## 1.2 Laboratory Techniques and Safety

### 1.2.1 Display of Hazardous Chemicals



**Procedure:** Display some well labelled containers with hazard symbols for the students and let them talk about them.

### 1.2.2 A Safety Game



**Materials:** Cards of hazard symbols

**Procedure:** Play a game with the symbol charts.

A student is given a hazard symbol. He has to explain the hazard shown and to explain the necessary safety precautions in order to avoid that hazard.

### 1.2.3 The Cleanliness Play



**Procedure:** Ask the students to play group-wise short and funny scenes using appropriate words to make them familiar with cleanliness rules.

### 1.2.4 The Tidiness Play



**Procedure:** Chemists are very tidy. Apparatus and reagents should be arranged on the table so that they can be reached easily but at a safe distance from the experiment.

## 1.3 Heat Sources and Flames

### Heat Sources

**Materials:** Candle, bottle cap, kerosene burner, tin cans, wire, charcoal, glass jar, metal tubes

**Procedure:** Construct the simple heat sources shown below.

**Questions:** What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

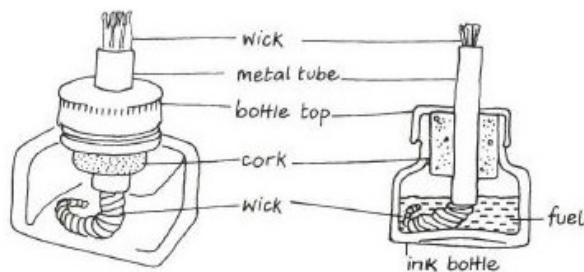
#### 1.3.1 Candle Burner



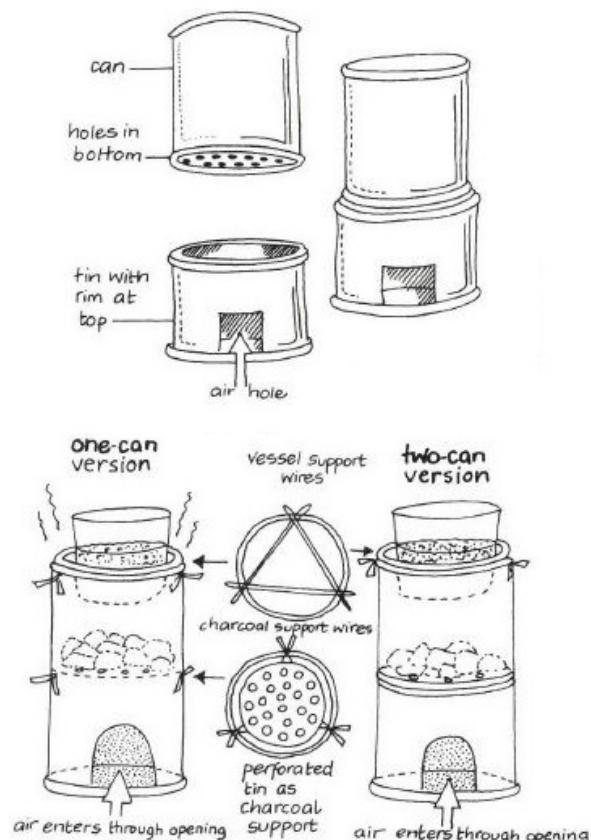
#### 1.3.2 Kerosene Burner



#### 1.3.3 Spirit Burner



#### 1.3.4 Charcoal Burner



#### 1.3.5 Types of Flames

**Materials:** Kerosene burner, candle, methylated spirit, kerosene, motopoa, bottle caps, matches, spoon, paper, metal jar lid

**Procedure:** Light a kerosene burner and observe the flame, adjusting the height of the wicks. Light small amounts of methylated spirit and motopoa in separate bottle caps. Light the candle and observe the flame. Light the paper on a metal lid and observe the flame. For each test, hold a metal spoon over the flame and examine for soot.

**Observations:** Kerosene produces a luminous flame. A long wick gives a bigger and brighter flame with more soot. Spirit and motopoa produce non-luminous flames and does not produce soot. Candles and burning paper produce a luminous flame and deposit soot on the spoon.

## 1.4 The Scientific Procedure

### 1.4.1 Acids and Bases



Acids or Bases?

**Materials:** Bottles, bottle caps, water, vinegar, lemons, baking soda, soda, soap, antacid tablets, rosella leaves, straws/syringes

**Setup:** Prepare solutions for each of the items above in separate bottles. Prepare indicator by placing rosella leaves in hot water.

**Problem:** What differences can we observe among acids and bases?

| Solutions                   | Hypothesis<br>(Which is different?) | Experimental Result |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Vinegar, lemon, baking soda |                                     |                     |
| Vinegar, baking soda, soap  |                                     |                     |
| Baking soda, antacid, soda  |                                     |                     |
| Soda, soap, vinegar         |                                     |                     |

**Hypothesis:** For each set of solutions, which one will reveal a colour different from the others? Record your predictions in the table.

**Procedure:** Place small amounts of 3 different solutions in separate bottle caps according to the table. Add a few drops of rosella indicator to each.

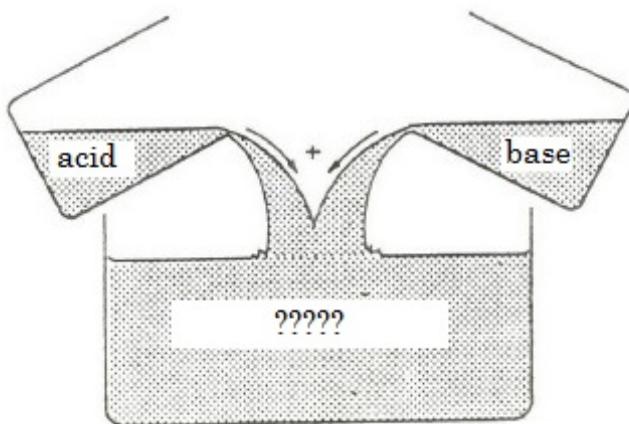
**Observations:** Record observations of colour change under *Experimental Result* in the table.

**Questions:**

1. Which solutions have similar properties?
2. Which solutions are acids? What colour do they show?
3. Which solutions are bases? What colour do they show?

**Theory:** Coloured leaves such as rosella act as indicators for identifying acids and bases. Adding rosella indicator reveals a red colour for acids and a blue colour for bases. Students do not need to understand the differences between acids and bases in order to observe their different behaviours. Locally available examples of acids include sour milk, citrus fruits and soda. Local bases include ammonia, toothpaste and detergent.

### 1.4.2 Mixing Acids and Bases



**Problem:** What happens when acids and bases are mixed together?

| Solutions to Mix            | Hypothesis<br>(What colour?) | Experimental Result |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Mix vinegar and lemon       |                              |                     |
| Mix baking soda and soap    |                              |                     |
| Mix vinegar and baking soda |                              |                     |

**Hypothesis:** Predict any colour changes or observations when pairs of solutions are mixed together.  
Record in the table.

**Procedure:** Mix small amounts of solutions together according to the table.

**Observations:** Record observations (colour changes, etc.) in the table.

**Questions:**

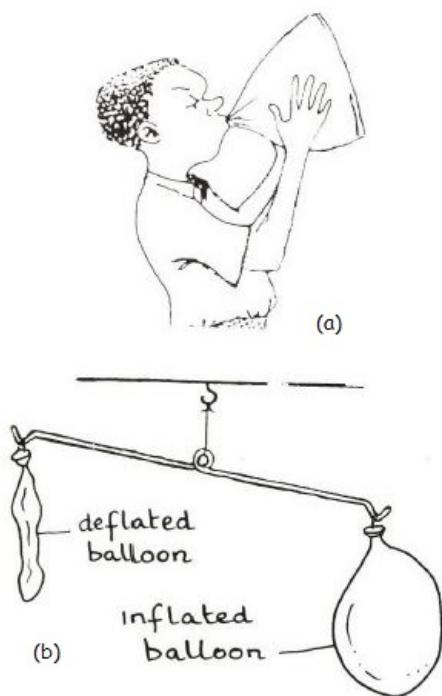
1. What happens when an acid is mixed with an acid?
2. What happens when a base is mixed with a base?
3. What happens when an acid is mixed with a base?

**Theory:** Mixing acids with acids and bases with bases may cause the colour of the solution to turn darker or lighter depending on the solutions used. Mixing an acid with a base should reveal a colourless solution and produce carbon dioxide gas. You may need to vary the amounts of acid and base to get a colourless solution depending on their concentrations.

## 1.5 Matter

### Concept of Matter

#### 1.5.1 Air is Matter



**Procedure:** Blow a bag or balloon up with air (a).

Hang a deflated bag and an inflated bag on either side of a simple wire balance.

**Observations:** Air in the bag occupies space. The air has mass as indicated by the balance.

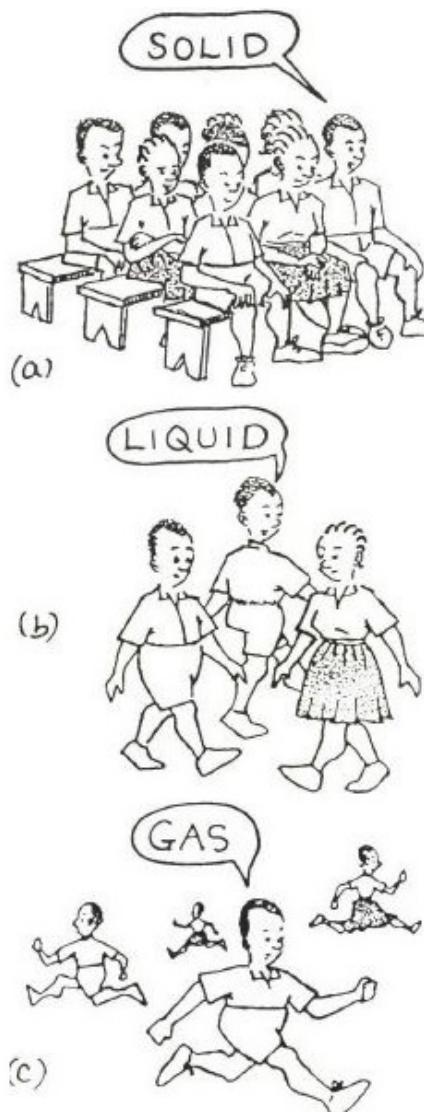
#### 1.5.2 Liquid is Matter



**Theory:** Liquids contain mass, occupy space and can provide a great force under pressure. Don't be like the plumber in the picture!

### States of Matter

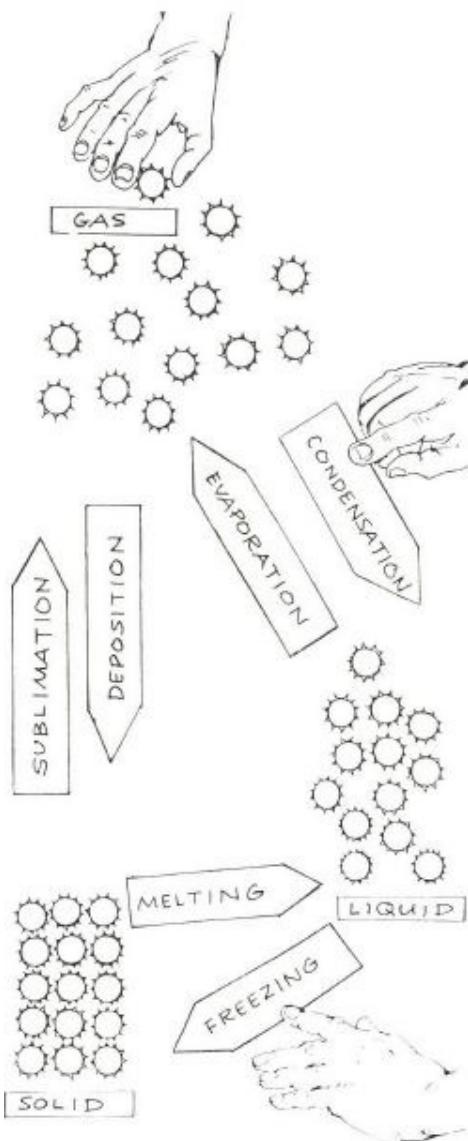
#### 1.5.3 Students as Matter



**Procedure:** Use students to demonstrate the concept of states of matter.

**Theory:** When students or objects are close together, they represent particles in the *solid* state. As they move apart and past each other they represent particles in the *liquid* state. Fast and randomly moving pupils or objects represent particles in the *gaseous* state.

### 1.5.4 Arranging States of Matter

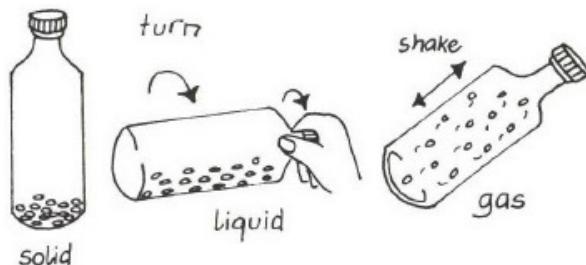


**Materials:** Bottle caps, paper

**Procedure:** Have students arrange bottle caps to represent the different states of matter, using labels from paper or cardboard.

**Theory:** The spacing of the bottle caps represents the distance between particles in each state. Particles have large spaces between them in gases, less space in liquids, and are very condensed in solids.

### 1.5.5 A Model of Motion



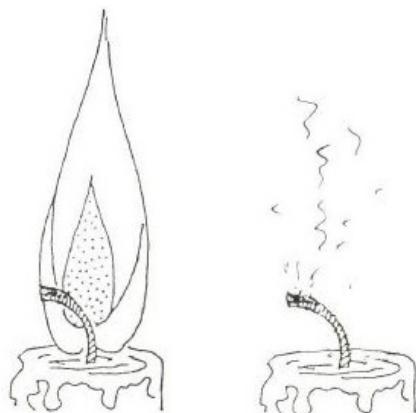
**Procedure:** Put some dry beans, rice or stones in a clear bottle. Hold the bottle still, then turn it, then shake it vigorously.

**Questions:** Which activity corresponds to which state of matter?

**Theory:** The movement of particles in solids is small and hence they are in fixed order. In liquids the particles move past each other and have lost the stiff order. In gases they move very fast and randomly, losing all order.

## Physical and Chemical Changes

### 1.5.6 Physical or Chemical?



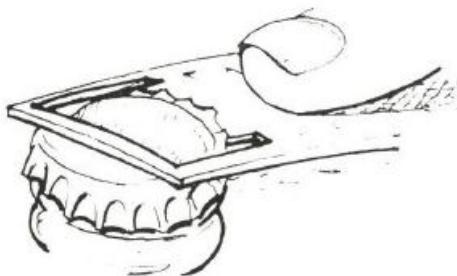
**Materials:** Candle, paper, sugar, bottle caps

**Procedure:** Light a candle and let it drip into a bottle cap. Then light the paper and catch the remains in another cap. Finally place a small amount of sugar in a cap and heat it over the flame.

**Observations:** The candle wax melts into a liquid, then upon cooling reforms into a solid. The paper burns up and leaves ash. The sugar turns brown upon heating, leaving a brownish black solid upon cooling.

**Theory:** The candle wax undergoes a physical change that only affects its physical properties. After heating, we can get the original wax back again by cooling. The paper and sugar undergo chemical changes since the change is not reversible.

### 1.5.7 Physical and Chemical Changes of Metals



**Materials:** Soda bottle, various metals, [Heat Source](#)

**Procedure:** Physical and chemical changes can be demonstrated with iron wool, copper, aluminium or lead.

- Apply physical forces.
- Heat the metals in a strong flame (blow pipe flame). Allow the metals to cool.

**Theory:** If only the form has changed, these are physical changes. If colour, density etc. have changed permanently, these are chemical changes.

### Elements and Symbols

#### 1.5.8 Element Memory Game

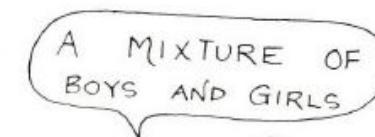
**Materials:** Manila paper/card/paper

**Setup:** Cut out 2 sets of identical small squares of card or paper. On the first set write the names of some elements and on the second set write their corresponding symbols. Make about 10-15 pairs.

**Procedure:** Mix the cards together and spread them out on a table face down. Students take turns flipping over 2 cards at a time. If the element and symbol match, they get to keep the cards. If not, they must turn them back over. The player with the most pairs of cards at the end wins!

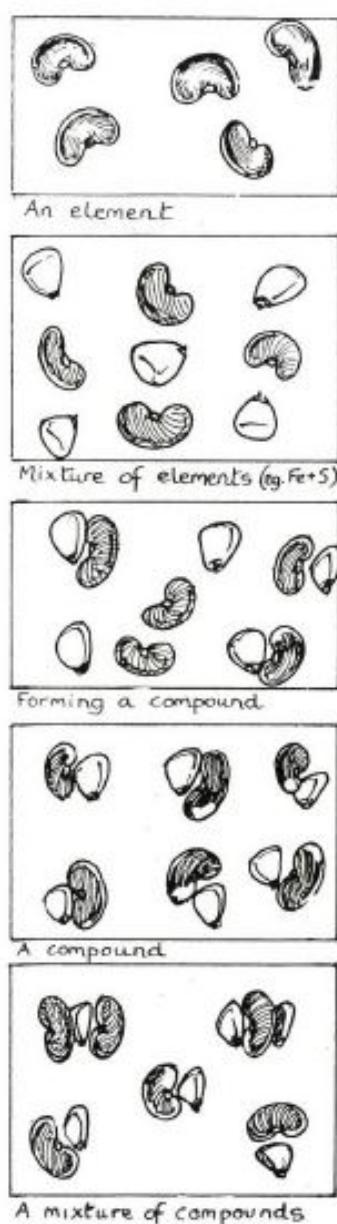
### Compounds and Mixtures

#### 1.5.9 Introducing Mixtures



**Procedure:** Why not introduce mixtures with a game? Students will like a more concrete introduction. Try it!

### 1.5.10 Mixtures and Compounds



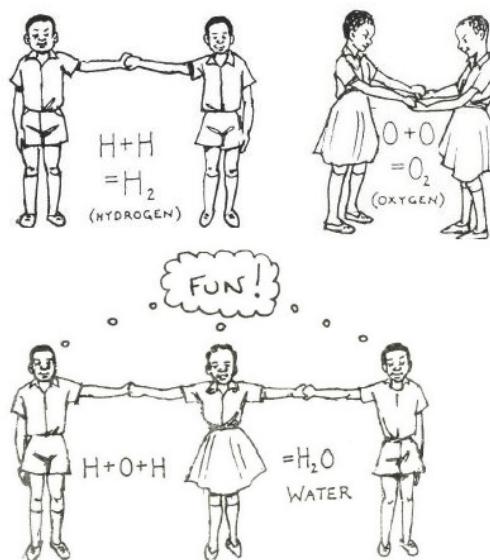
**Materials:** Beans, seeds, corn kernels, etc.

**Procedure:** Use the items to represent various elements, mixtures and compounds as shown.

**Theory:** In homogeneous mixtures, the particles are uniformly mixed and it is impossible to see the different ingredients even by using a light microscope. For example, solutions and the mixture of gases in air are homogeneous mixtures.

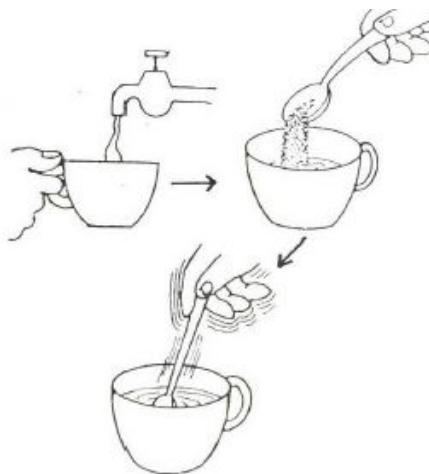
In heterogeneous mixtures, the particles are also uniformly mixed. But the individual components can be seen either by eye or by using a magnifying glass or microscope.

### 1.5.11 Student Compounds



**Procedure:** To show that elements combine in constant proportions, ask the students to play a game of forming molecules like those of water, ammonia, methane, ethane, carbon dioxide etc. See the figures.

### 1.5.12 Homogeneous Mixtures

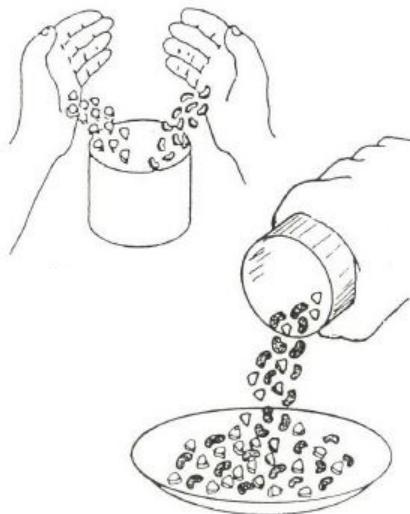


**Materials:** Salt, water, spoon, bottle

**Procedure:** Dissolve some table salt or sugar in drinking water to demonstrate a solution as a homogeneous mixture. Ask the pupils to taste the solution to prove that the chemical properties of the solute have not changed.

**Hazards:** Ensure that clean water, cups and spoons are used.

### 1.5.13 Heterogeneous Mixtures



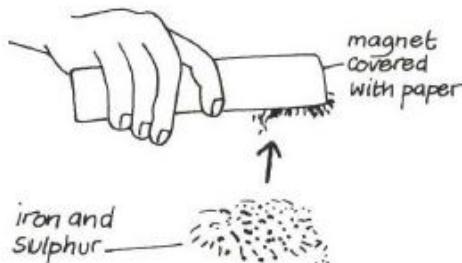
**Materials:** Bean seeds, maize grains, salt, sand, sugar

**Procedure:** (a) Take a handful of maize grains and another handful of bean seeds. Each handful is like a pure substance having only one kind of particle. Now mix the maize grains and the beans in a container. Repeat with sand and salt or sand and sugar.

**Theory:** This is like a heterogeneous mixture since different particles can be seen.

**Applications:** Common everyday examples of heterogenous mixtures are turbid water and porridge. Preparing concrete is another example which can be observed in daily life.

### 1.5.14 Separating Iron and Sulphur



**Materials:** Steel wool, sulphur powder, magnet, paper

**Setup:** Prepare a mixture of iron filings and sulphur powder.

**Procedure:** Cover the magnet with paper. The magnet will attract only the iron, leaving sulphur behind.

**Theory:** The magnetic properties of the iron filings allow the magnet to separate the mixture by attracting the iron.

### 1.5.15 Suspensions



**Theory:** A suspension is a mixture of a solid and a liquid. Suspensions can be made from solids like sand, soil, ash, sawdust etc. with a liquid like water.

**Applications:** Let the students find more examples from their daily life (e.g. toothpaste and porridge).

### 1.5.16 Emulsions

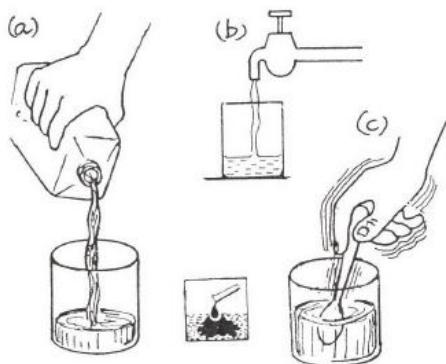


**Materials:** Kerosene/oil, water, bottle, soap

**Theory:** Emulsions are made from two immiscible liquids like kerosene or oil in water. Shake and let it stand for some time to demonstrate an unstable emulsion. If soap is added to the water it acts as an emulsifier and stabilizes the emulsion. Wood ash also acts in this way.

**Applications:** Let the students find more examples in daily life (e.g. milk).

### 1.5.17 Miscible and Immiscible Liquids



**Materials:** Water, kerosene, alcohol, bottles

**Procedure:** Mix equal amounts of water separately with kerosene and alcohol in two different containers.

**Hazards:** Kerosene is water polluting! Do not pour it into the sink. Keep it in a labeled container for further experiments.

**Theory:** The water and kerosene combine to make an immiscible liquid, whereas the water and alcohol form a miscible liquid.

### 1.5.18 Lava Lamp

**Materials:** Bottle, water, food coloring, oil, effervescent antacid tablets, flashlight,

**Procedure:** Fill the bottom 10 cm of a water bottle with water. Add a few drops of food coloring. Fill rest of the bottle with oil. Drop in an effervescent antacid tablet. Cap and put a flashlight underneath the bottle.

**Observations:** Observe the colors and the movement of the liquids.

**Theory:** Oil is a compound that is hydrophobic (it repels water). Oil is a long non-polar hydrocarbon, while water is a small polar compound. This means that the water cannot mix with the oil layer. This is why there are two layers on mixing oil and water. Adding the effervescent antacid tablets dissolve and release carbon dioxide in the water layer. The carbon dioxide dissolves in the water and forms small bubbles of carbon dioxide. These bubbles trap small amounts of food coloring. These bubbles rise since they have a much lower density than water. When the bubble reaches the surface, the carbon dioxide escapes and the colored water bubble falls down through the oil layer.

### 1.5.19 Moving Colours

**Materials:** Milk, various food colouring, powdered soap, cotton ball or swab, shallow dish or plate

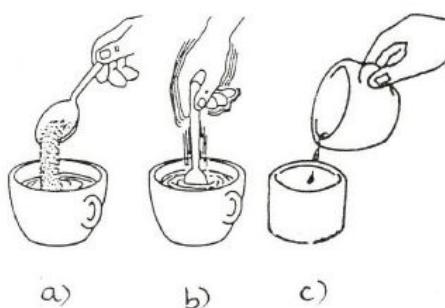
**Procedure:** Pour in just enough milk to cover the plate or the bowl. Place a few drops of food colouring around the plate of milk. Soak the cotton swab in some soapy water and touch it to the center of the milk plate.

**Observations:** The colours will start to move and swirl towards the center.

**Theory:** Milk is made up of fats and different proteins (non-polar molecules). The water solution in the food colour and the non polar milk barely mix. Soap is a compound that is both polar on one end and non polar on the other end. The milk and the soap intermingle forming micelles. In addition, the surface tension of the water in the milk breaks, allowing food colouring to move around in the milk.

## Separating Mixtures

### 1.5.20 Decantation

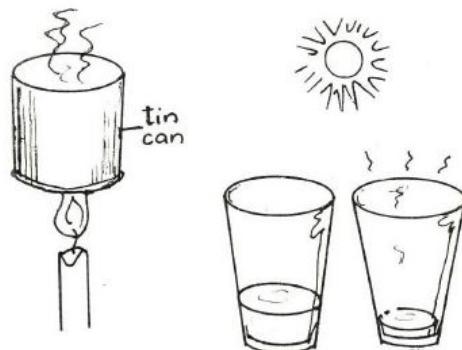


**Materials:** Cup, water, sand

**Procedure:** This procedure is based on the different density of particles. Shake some sand with water, let it stand for some time and decant the water.

**Applications:** Maize seeds are usually washed before milling. After washing the maize seeds are separated from the water by decantation.

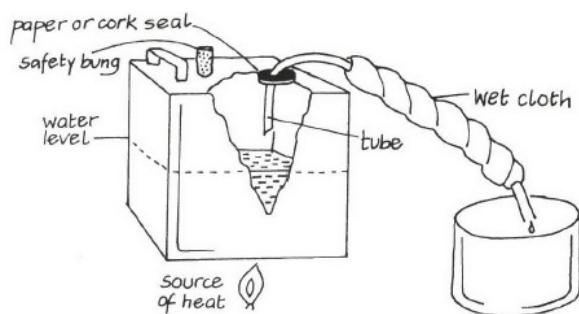
### 1.5.21 Evaporation



**Materials:** Container, salt, water

**Procedure:** This procedure is based on different boiling points. (a) Dissolve some common salt in water and heat to dryness. (b) Better crystals can be obtained by evaporating most of the water. The remaining water can be evaporated slowly in the sun.

### 1.5.22 Distillation



**Materials:** Metal can, cork/rubber stopper, plastic tubing, wet cloth, container, Heat Source

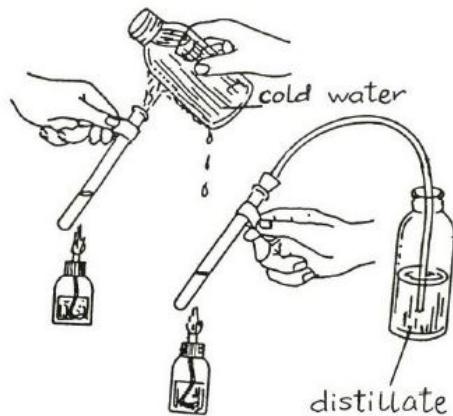
**Procedure:** Fill a container half way with water. Cut a hole in the top and fix a rubber stopper with a plastic tube through the center. Wrap a wet cloth around the tube and feed it into a can. Add a safety bung using rubber or cork to prevent against very high pressures within the container and place the container over the heat source.

**Hazards:** Make sure the safety bung is not too tight and that the container always has water inside.

**Theory:** Heating the can produces steam which is then cooled by the wet cloth. Steam condenses to produce water.

**Applications:** This method can be used to purify water.

### 1.5.23 Distillation of a Solution



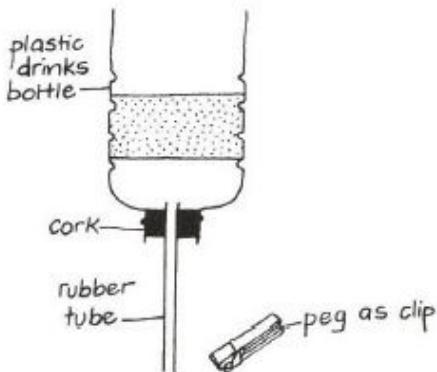
**Materials:** Candle, bottles, cold water, ash extract, tube

**Procedure:** Take the ash extract obtained by filtration and distill it as shown. The ash extract is separated into a liquid (distillate) and a solid residue.

**Hazards:** Take care due to the small diameter of the connection tubes.

**Theory:** The solids have a much higher boiling point than the water.

### 1.5.24 Separating Immiscible Liquids



**Materials:** Kerosene, water, bottle, cork, rubber tube, clothespin

**Procedure:** Combine 2 liquids together that do not mix well, e.g. groundnut oil and water; palm oil and water; petrol/diesel and water; castor oil and water. Palm oil is particularly effective because it is brightly coloured.

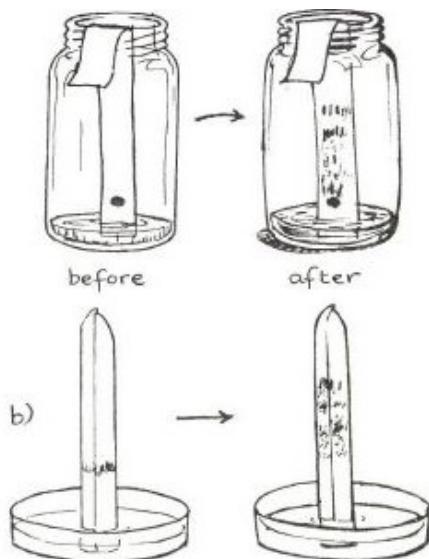
**Theory:** When 2 liquids will not mix with each other they are said to be immiscible. One liquid will sink below the other and can be drawn off as shown.

### 1.5.25 Filtration



**Theory:** Filtering is based on the same principle as sieving. It is a frequently used process in daily life. The students can explain different filtering processes they know.

### 1.5.26 Chromatography



**Materials:** Pen/marker, newspaper, water, chalk, ink

**Procedure:** (a) Make a line with ink or a black felt pen (containing water soluble colour) on a strip made from filter paper or the white rim of a newspaper. Hang the strip into water, so that the spot is above the water level.  
 (b) Stand a piece of chalk in ink. The chalk must stand upright.

**Theory:** This procedure is based on the different capillary rise of soluble substances in a porous support. Many colours are mixtures. The different colours rise at different speeds and thus separate.

## 1.6 Air, Combustion, Rusting and Fire Fighting

### Composition of Air

#### 1.6.1 What is Air?



**Procedure:** (a) To show the percentage by volume of the different gases in air take a cardboard box of about  $50\text{ cm} \times 50\text{ cm} \times 50\text{ cm}$  and partition it using cardboard pieces as shown in diagram (a) according to the following figures: Nitrogen 78%, Oxygen 21%, other 1% (Argon 0.93%, other noble gases 0.002%, carbon dioxide 0.03%, hydrogen 0.001%). (b) The classroom can be imagined to be a box with a certain volume of air and divided accordingly by students as shown.

#### 1.6.2 Gases in Air

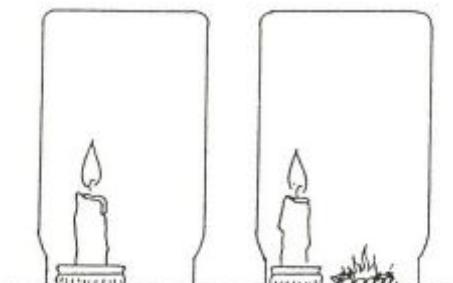


**Materials:** Bottle tops/stones

**Procedure:** Collect a hundred bottle tops or stones. Arrange in ten rows of ten. Each bottle top represents one percent (by volume) of the gases in the air. The bottle tops can then be divided according to the percentages described in the previous activity.

### Combustion

#### 1.6.3 Requirements for Combustion



**Materials:** 2 glass jars, 2 candles, bottle caps, kerosene or spirit

**Procedure:** Place 1 jar over a lit candle and the other jar over both a candle and a kerosene or spirit flame in a bottle cap.

**Questions:** Which candle flame goes out first?

**Observations:** The candle in the jar with the spirit burner goes out first.

**Theory:** Three elements are necessary for combustion: heat, fuel and oxygen. In the second jar, both the candle and spirit flame are consuming oxygen and so the oxygen gets depleted faster, extinguishing the flame.

#### 1.6.4 Rising Water



**Materials:** Candle, dish, water, glass

**Procedure:** Place a candle in a dish fixing it securely with melted wax. Fill the dish with water. Put glasses of different sizes over the candle.

**Observations:** The water rises to different levels after the flame goes out.

**Theory:** Once the glass is placed over the candle, the flame consumes the remainder of the oxygen in the glass, replacing it with carbon dioxide and other gases. The heating of the gases causes expansion and bubbles come out of the jar. This is followed by their subsequent cooling and contraction, which reduces the volume of gas inside the glass and allows water to enter.

#### 1.6.5 H<sub>2</sub>O as a Product of Combustion

**Materials:** Glass jar/plastic bottle, water, candle

**Procedure:** Fill the bottle with water and hold it just above a lit candle, far enough so that it does not burn.

**Observations:** After a minute or two, condensation forms on the outside of the container, showing that water is a product of combustion.

#### 1.6.6 CO<sub>2</sub> as a Product of Combustion



**Materials:** Tall glass, wood ash, dilute acid, match, candle

**Procedure:** Place some wood ash in a tall glass and add some dilute acid. Drop a lit match into the glass and wait for it to stop burning. Now pour the glass over a lit candle.

**Observations:** Pouring the glass puts out the candle flame.

**Theory:** The carbon dioxide produced stays in the glass since it is denser than air. Carbon dioxide extinguishes flames since it does not support combustion.

**Applications:** Fire extinguishers

#### 1.6.7 Burning Money

**Materials:** Methylated spirits, water, container, matches, paper money, clothespin

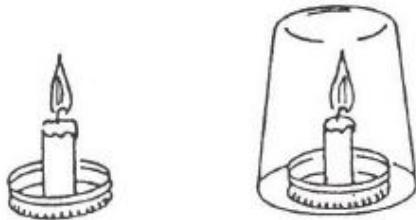
**Procedure:** Make a mixture of 3 parts methylated spirits and 2 parts water. Soak the money in the mixture. Remove with a clothespin and light it with a match. After about 5 seconds drop the money into the extra water.

**Observations:** The money appears to burn but remains intact.

**Theory:** The ethanol in the methylated spirit burns at a low temperature while the water protects the bill from combusting. However, if there is a lot of ethanol and it burns for a long time, the water will evaporate away and the bill will start burning.

## Firefighting

### 1.6.8 Putting Out Fires



**Materials:** Bottle caps, ethanol, kerosene, water, matches, sand, glass jar

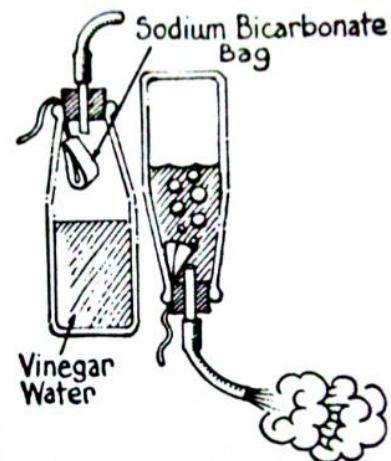
**Procedure:** Put a small amount of ethanol into a bottle cap and light it with a match. Pour water onto the flame. Repeat using a handful of sand and then an inverted glass over the flame. Now add a small amount of kerosene to a bottle cap. Repeat the above methods, but add water *carefully* using a syringe near the base of the flame. Repeat the steps for a burning piece of paper.

**Hazards:** Perform these tests on a laboratory floor, not a wooden table or desk.

**Observations:** The ethanol and paper flames are extinguished in all 3 cases. However, adding water to the kerosene *does not* extinguish it.

**Theory:** Overturning a glass jar deprives the flames of oxygen and thus extinguishes them. A kerosene fire can NOT be extinguished by water because water is immiscible with kerosene, and it only causes the fire to spread.

### 1.6.9 Making a Fire Extinguisher



**Materials:** Bottle, tea bag, bicarbonate of soda, vinegar, water, plastic tube, super glue

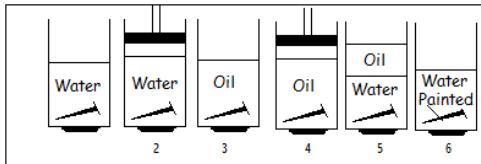
**Setup:** Empty a tea bag and fill it with sodium bicarbonate. Suspend it in a bottle half-filled with a vinegar-water solution. Poke a hole in the cap and insert a plastic tube. Make sure it is sealed using super glue or clay.

**Procedure:** Invert the bottle and use the tube to direct the spray at a lit candle.

**Theory:** The reaction produces carbon dioxide gas which extinguishes flames. This is how fire extinguishers eliminate flames.

## Rusting

### 1.6.10 Conditions for Rusting



**Materials:** 6 syringes, 6 nails, water, oil, paint

**Setup:** Seal the bottoms of the syringes by melting the plastic.

**Procedure:** Place a nail in each syringe. Paint the final nail. Fill the syringes as shown, closing some of them with their plungers. Observe the nails over time and note which ones show rusting.

**Observations:** Syringe 1 should show rusting, while the others do not.

**Theory:** Syringe 1 is the control - both water and oxygen react with the nail. In syringe 2, no oxygen is available. In syringe 3, there is no water and oil makes it difficult for oxygen to reach the nail. In syringe 4, neither water nor oxygen are present. In syringe 5, water is available, but the layer of oil prevents oxygen from reaching it since oxygen does not travel easily through oil. In syringe 6, painting covers the iron surface, so there is no iron to produce rusting.

### 1.6.11 Rusting of Steel Wool

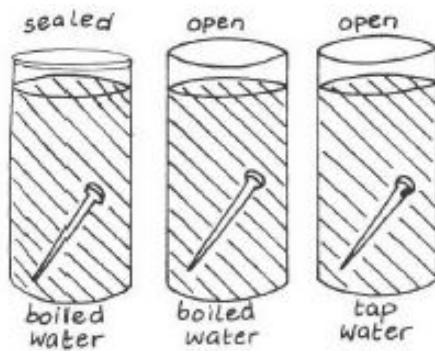


**Materials:** Steel wool, candle, 2 glass containers

**Procedure:** Wet the steel wool and place some in each container. Seal one container. Place a lighted candle in the other container. When the candle has burnt for several minutes seal the container with a lid. The candle will go out eventually. Leave both containers for 2 days.

**Observations:** The steel wool in the container with the candle should not rust as much because oxygen has been removed by the candle.

### 1.6.12 Rusty Nails



**Materials:** 3 containers, 2 nails, boiled water, tap water

**Procedure:** Place a nail in each of the containers and leave for a day.

**Observations:** The only nail which does not rust is the one in the sealed jar of boiled water.

**Theory:** Boiling the water removes the oxygen and sealing it prevents oxygen from the air dissolving in it.

### 1.6.13 Preventing Rusting



**Materials:** tin can, oil

**Procedure:** Make 2 large scratches on the surface of a tin can (not an aluminium can often used for drinks). Put a thin layer of oil onto one scratch. Leave the tin exposed to the air for a few days. Note which scratch rusts.

**Observations:** The scratch not covered in oil rusts, while the other does not.

**Theory:** Oil prevents water and oxygen from reaching the surface of metal, and so no rusting occurs.

**Applications:** Machine parts often cannot be protected by painting or other means so they are regularly oiled.

# Chemistry Activities for Form II

## 2.1 Oxygen

### Preparation of Oxygen

#### 2.1.1 Using Hydrogen Peroxide

**Materials:** Dry cell, hydrogen peroxide, water, plastic bottle

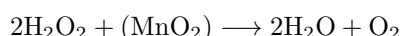
**Setup:** Open a dry cell battery and peel back the metal casing to reveal a black powder. This is Manganese (IV) oxide.

**Procedure:** Scoop out the powder and place in a plastic bottle. Add about 20 mL of dilute hydrogen peroxide. Crush and cap the bottle.

**Hazards:** Hydrogen peroxide is corrosive. Be sure to dilute the solution.

**Observations:** The bottle inflates with oxygen gas.

**Theory:** Hydrogen peroxide decomposes into water and oxygen rather easily. The manganese (IV) dioxide acts as a catalyst. The chemical equation for this reaction is:



#### 2.1.2 Using A Yeast Catalyst

**Materials:** Hydrogen peroxide, water, yeast, plastic bottle

**Procedure:** Place a small amount of dilute hydrogen peroxide in a plastic bottle. Crush the bottle and add some yeast. Cap the bottle and gently invert.

**Theory:** Yeast contains an enzyme called catalase, which helps to break down hydrogen peroxide into oxygen and water. The enzyme protects the organism by eating the peroxide.

#### 2.1.3 Elephant Toothpaste

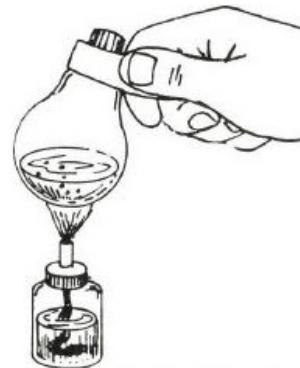
**Materials:** Syringe/measuring cylinder, powdered soap, yeast, hydrogen peroxide, food colour

**Procedure:** Mix powdered soap and a warm yeast solution in a syringe or large measuring cylinder. Add food colouring if desired. Pour in hydrogen peroxide.

**Observations:** A large amount of foam/bubbles bursts out of the container.

**Theory:** Catalase decomposes hydrogen peroxide to form water and oxygen gas. The soap traps the gas in bubbles. These bubbles build up upon each other, slowly forcing them out of the container.

#### 2.1.4 Using Potassium Manganate (VII)



**Materials:** Potassium manganate (VII), Heat Source, test tube/light bulb

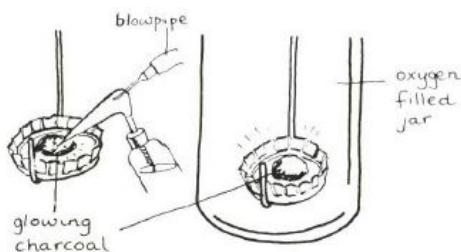
**Procedure:** Carefully heat potassium manganate (VII) (permanganate) in a test tube or in an opened electric bulb.

**Theory:** Chemical equation for this reaction:



### Properties of Oxygen

#### 2.1.5 Burning in Pure Oxygen



**Materials:** Charcoal, deflagrating spoon, straw, bottle

**Procedure:** (a) Ignite charcoal in a deflagrating spoon using a blow pipe. Then put the deflagrating spoon with the burning charcoal into a glass full of pure oxygen.

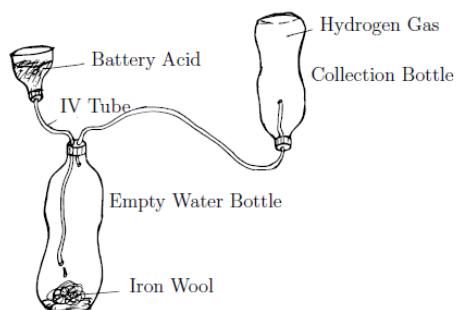
(b) Bring glowing iron wool into a glass full of pure oxygen.

**Observations:** Both substances bum with bright flame.

**Theory:** Charcoal forms carbon dioxide and iron forms iron oxide. Both reactions give out heat (exothermic reactions).

## 2.2 Hydrogen

### 2.2.1 Production of Hydrogen



**Materials:** 2 plastic bottles, funnel, iron wool, plastic tube, battery acid

**Setup:** Poke 2 small holes in a plastic bottle lid. Run 2 plastic tubes (IV tubes/giving sets) through the holes. Connect one to a funnel (cut off bottle) and the other to an empty upturned bottle as shown.

**Procedure:** Place some iron wool in the bottom of the first bottle and close the lid. Pour battery acid into the funnel so that it falls on the iron wool.

**Hazards:** Always wear goggles when handling acids.

**Observations:** Hydrogen gas collects in the upturned bottle.

### 2.2.2 Hydrogen ‘Pop’

**Materials:** Plastic bottle, iron wool, citric acid/battery acid/HCl, funnel, balloon, string, matches, paper

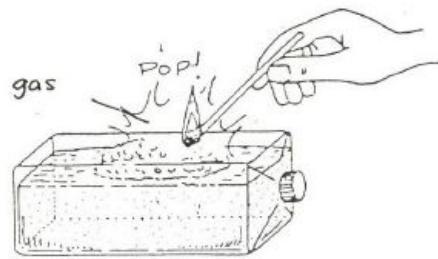
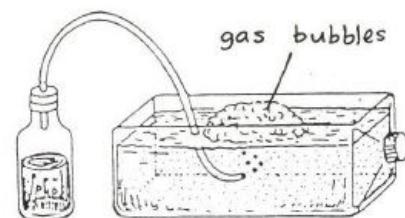
**Procedure:** Place some steel wool in the bottom of a bottle. Slowly pour the acid into the bottle using a funnel. Stretch a balloon over the mouth of the bottle. After it has inflated, tie the balloon closed with a string and remove from the bottle. Light a long stick or piece of paper and hold it underneath the balloon.

**Hazards:** HCl burns - wear safety goggles when using it. Do not ignite the balloon near the bottle of acid.

**Observations:** The balloon fills with hydrogen gas. If using citric acid, it may take longer to fill. When the flame is brought near the balloon, it makes a loud ‘pop’ as it combusts in air.

**Notes:** You can also use the zinc plate from inside a dry cell in place of iron wool.

### 2.2.3 Hydrogen Bubbles

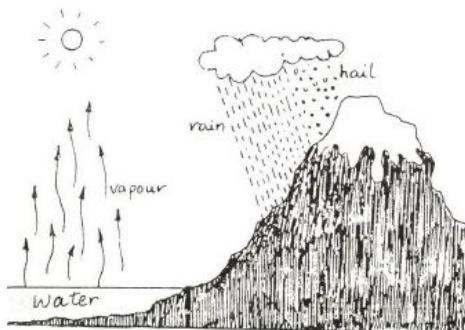


**Procedure:** Produce hydrogen gas as described above, but run the tube into a water bath. When you begin to see bubbles being produced, bring a long lit stick or burning paper near the bubbles and hear the loud ‘pop.’

## 2.3 Water

### Occurrence and Nature of Water

#### 2.3.1 The Water Cycle



**Materials:** Cards, scissors

**Procedure:** Cut out cards and label them according to different terms associated with the water cycle (e.g. evaporation, condensation, precipitation, transpiration, collection). Sketch the picture shown and have students label where each takes place.

#### 2.3.2 Cloud in a Jar

**Materials:** Wide mouth glass jar, balloon/latex glove, water, matches

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of water to the jar. Stretch the mouth of the balloon around the mouth of the jar and insert it so it hangs in the bottle. Pull the balloon out and quickly open the seal and drop in a lit match. Quickly reseal, pushing the balloon back inside the bottle, and then pull the balloon outside of the jar again.

**Observations:** A cloud forms inside the jar.

**Theory:** By putting the balloon in the jar and pulling it out, the volume inside the container increases and some of the water turns into vapour. Dropping a match creates smoke and other particles where rain can form. Pulling the balloon out again lowers the temperature by decreasing the volume enough to start forming clouds.

**Applications:** Clouds in the sky are formed when water vapour is cooled to form tiny water droplets.

### Properties of Water

#### 2.3.3 Test for Water

**Materials:** Copper (II) sulphate, spoon, candle, water

**Procedure:** Place a small amount of blue copper (II) sulphate in a metal spoon. Heat the spoon over the candle until the crystals have changed from blue to white. Add a few drops of water to the white crystals.

**Theory:** On heating blue hydrated copper (II) sulphate, the colour changes from blue ( $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) to white ( $\text{CuSO}_4$ ). On addition of a few drops of water  $\text{CuSO}_4$  returns to its original hydrated state (blue), i.e. copper sulphate pentahydrated.

### Importance of Water

#### 2.3.4 Wasted Water



**Procedure:** Conduct an experiment or survey at your school or village. If you have a dripping tap or leaking pipe, try to find out how much water it wastes each day. Collect the water and measure the volume lost over 15 minutes and then calculate how much would be lost in a day, week, etc.

**Applications:** Water is essential for all life. Many areas have very little access to water. What can you do in your community to reduce water waste?

### 2.3.5 Water in Daily Life



**Procedure:** Ask the students to talk about:

- The importance of water in daily life;
- Where and why water is being polluted;
- How contaminated water may harm people.

**Theory:** (b) People washing or urinating in/near rivers, lakes; used lubricating oil of cars etc. being dumped on soil may enter the ground water table; factories using chemicals (e.g. tanneries, paper mills, fertilizer plants, pesticide plants etc.) may pollute rivers, lakes etc.

(c) People may get typhoid fever, cholera etc. when drinking contaminated water from rivers, lakes or wells; water contaminated by factories may cause cancer etc.

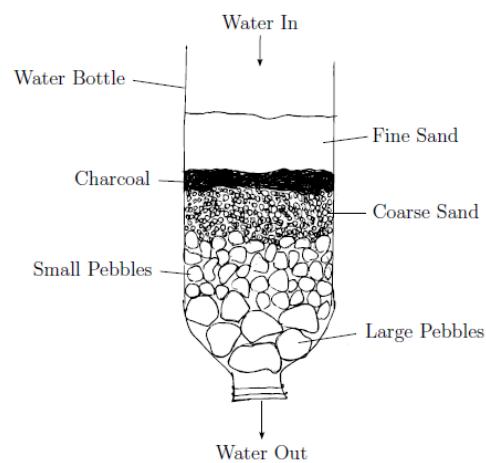
## Treatment and Purification of Water

### 2.3.6 The 'SODIS' Method

**Procedure:** Fill a bottle with water from a tap. Place it on the roof of your house in open sunlight for 2 days or 3-4 days if it is cloudy. Filter through a clean cloth or kanga.

**Theory:** Ultraviolet rays from the sun kill the harmful bacteria in the water that cause disease. Filtering though a cloth removes solid impurities.

### 2.3.7 Constructing a Water Filter



**Materials:** Fine sand, coarse sand, small pebbles, large pebbles, charcoal, empty bottle, dirty water

**Setup:** Rinse off all pebbles and remove dirt from the sand. Cut the bottom of a bottle so it is shaped like a funnel.

**Procedure:** Invert the bottle and place the large pebbles, followed by smaller pebbles, coarse sand, charcoal and sand on top. Run water through until it comes out clean on bottom.

**Theory:** When dirty water passes through sand particles, impurities are trapped and remain above. The smallest particles and some micro-organisms are stopped by the charcoal layer.

### 2.3.8 Water Treatment at Home

**Materials:** Heat Source, pot, water, clean cloth, bucket

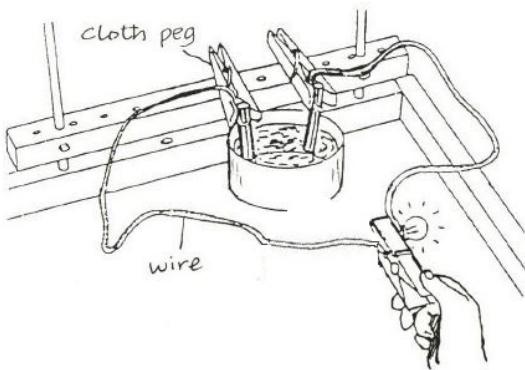
**Procedure:** Boil a pot of water and let it cool. Then pour through a clean cloth or kanga into a clean bucket. The water is now safe for drinking.

**Theory:** Boiling water at the boiling point ( $100^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) kills the germs and bacteria which may cause diseases. Filtration with a piece of clean white cloth removes any solid impurities.

## 2.4 Fuels and Energy

### Transformation of Energy

#### 2.4.1 Chemical to Electrical Energy



**Materials:** Copper (II) sulphate, zinc metal (from dry cell), copper wire, steel wool, ammeter/bulb

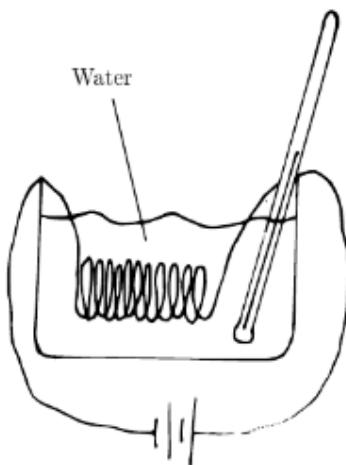
**Setup:** Prepare a 2 M solution of copper (II) sulphate and clean pieces of copper wire and zinc using steel wool.

**Procedure:** Connect the zinc anode, ammeter/bulb and copper cathode in series using connecting wires. Dip the zinc and copper electrodes into the copper (II) sulphate solution. Read the current on the ammeter.

**Observations:** The ammeter shows a deflection, possibly around 0.05 A.

**Theory:** The current produced indicates that the chemical energy inherent in the electrodes and the electrolyte solution is converted to electrical energy.

#### 2.4.2 Making an Electric Heater



**Materials:** Nichrome (resistance) wire (1 m), cardboard tube, speaker wire, 2-4 dry cells, water container, thermometer (optional)

**Procedure:** Coil the resistance wire around a cardboard tube so that the coils are close but not touching. Use speaker wires to connect the ends of the resistance wire to the terminals of the batteries. Place the coil of resistance wire into the container of water.

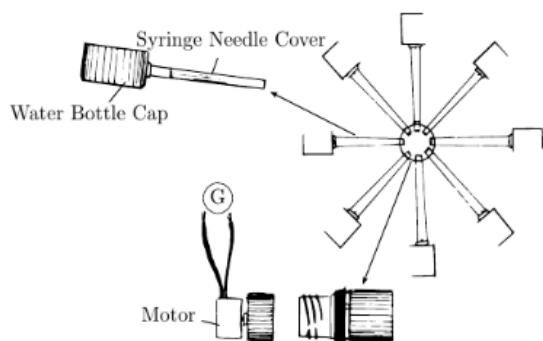
**Hazards:** Do not touch the water when current is flowing. If the heater is connected to the cells while not in the water, the wire can melt or burn other objects.

**Observations:** By touching the water container *on the outside*, it begins to warm up. If left for long enough, the water will begin to boil.

**Theory:** The electric heater converts electrical energy into heat energy. The larger the coils are, the more efficient the heater will be.

**Applications:** Boiling water, heating houses

### 2.4.3 Water Turbine



**Materials:** Plastic bottle, small motor (e.g. from car stereo), super glue, [Heat Source](#), heated nail or soldering iron, 9 water bottle caps, 8 syringe needle caps, scissors, water and pitcher, connecting wires, galvanometer

**Water Wheel:** Using a hot nail or soldering iron, melt the open end of a syringe needle cap to the side of a water bottle cap to create a sort of spoon. Repeat 7 more times for a total of 8 pieces. Cut the top off a water bottle just below the lip which holds the cap. Melt a plastic cap over the cut end of the bottle top so that the threaded side is open. Use the hot nail or soldering iron to melt 8 holes evenly around the side of this central bottle cap. Insert the 8 spokes into the holes so that they create an 8-spoke wheel with all of the cups facing in one direction at equal distances from the centre. Melt the plastic around each spoke to secure them in place.

**Generator:** Make a small hole in the centre of the bottle cap using a pin. Glue the top of the cap to the motor wheel so that the two spin together evenly.

**Setup:** Screw the water wheel onto the generator like closing a bottle. The water wheel should be able to turn freely on the motor. Connect the terminals of the motor to the terminals of the galvanometer.

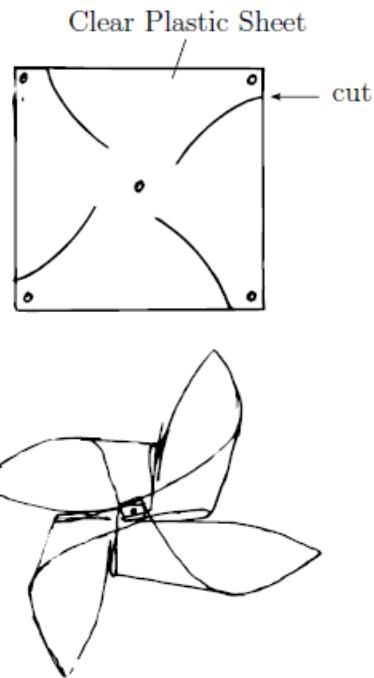
**Procedure:** Pour water from a pitcher or spout and place the water wheel under the water so that it turns vertically.

**Observations:** The galvanometer will deflect to show that a current is being created in the wire.

**Theory:** Mechanical energy (falling water and subsequent rotating water wheel) is converted into electrical energy (electric current) using a generator.

### Alternative Forms of Energy

#### 2.4.4 Windmills



**Materials:** Paper/plastic sheet, scissors, pen, glue, paper fastener/thumb tack, straw or stick

**Procedure:** Copy the illustration onto a sheet of plastic or paper. Cut along the lines and make holes with a pen. Bend the four corners together into the center and glue them in place. Push the fastener through the center into a straw or stick.

## 2.5 Atomic Structure

### The Atom

#### 2.5.1 Dalton's Model

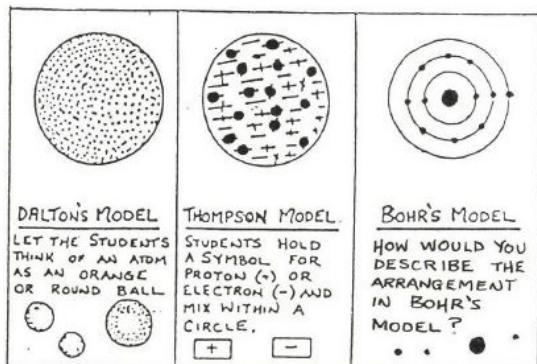


**Materials:** Football, orange, balls of other sizes

**Theory:** Dalton stated that atoms are round and that the atoms of different elements are not alike in diameter and chemical properties.

**Procedure:** Let students bring balls of different diameters made from different materials. Let them discuss these models and their shortcomings.

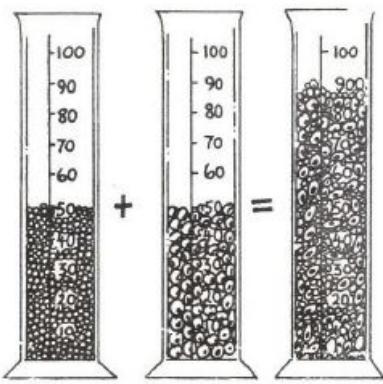
#### 2.5.2 Atom Model Displays



**Materials:** Manila paper, bamboo sticks, string, paper, marker pens

**Procedure:** Prepare display charts for the different atomic models developed throughout history (Dalton, Thompson, Rutherford).

#### 2.5.3 Particle Packing



**Materials:** Measuring cylinders, sand, seeds/stones

**Procedure:** Mix 50 ml of fine sand with 50 ml of seeds or stones.

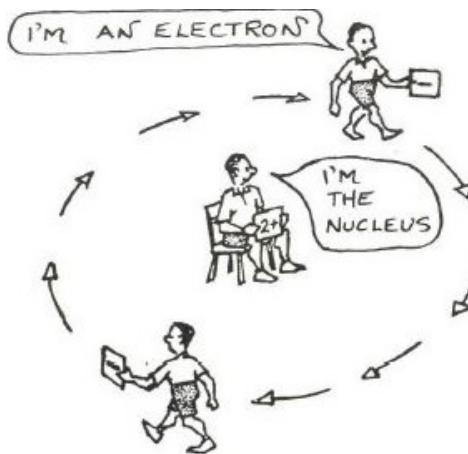
**Questions:** What is the resulting volume?

**Observations:** The resulting volume is less than 100 ml.

**Theory:** The small molecules are able to fill the space between the larger molecules. The greater the difference in size, the greater the volume decrease is. This provides a better understanding of Dalton's model.

### Sub-Atomic Particles

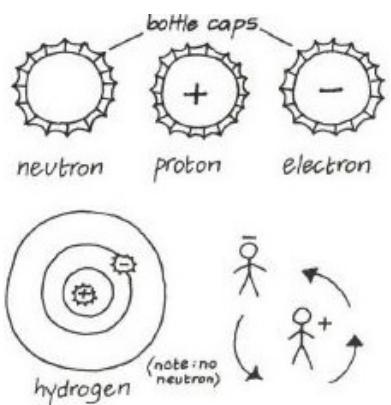
#### 2.5.4 Student Atoms



**Materials:** Balloons or cards/papers, markers

**Procedure:** Give each student a card or balloon with a different symbol written on it ('+' for proton, '-' for electron, blank for neutron). Students arrange themselves to show a particular atom. Draw circles with chalk on the ground to represent different electron shells.

### 2.5.5 Models of Atoms



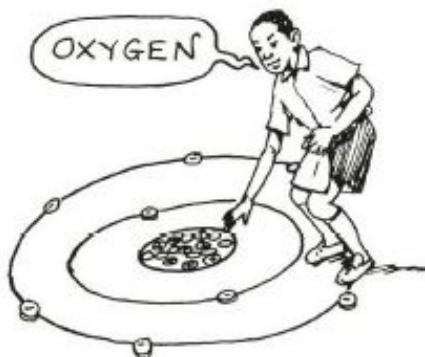
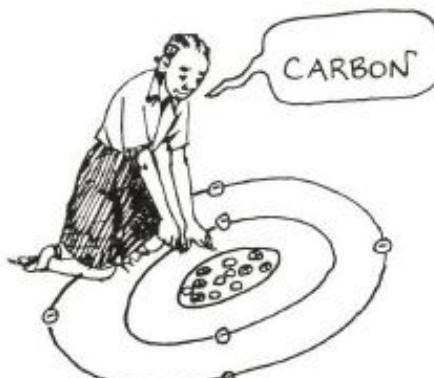
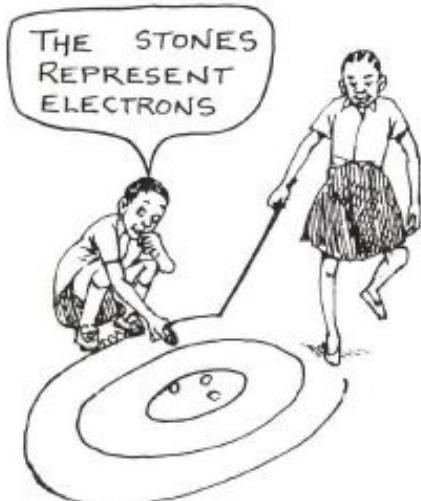
**Materials:** Bottle caps, marker

**Procedure:** Label bottle caps as protons ('+'), electrons ('-') and neutrons (blank). Create models for different atoms by placing the appropriate number of protons and neutrons in the center (nucleus) and electrons on drawn circles around the outside. Draw circles on desks or floors to represent the electron shells.

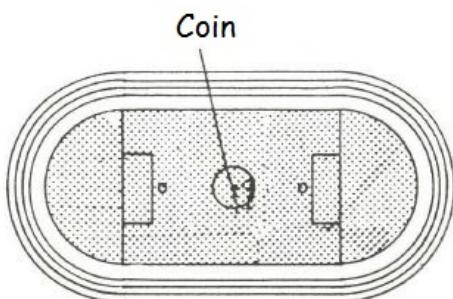
**Theory:** All atoms contain a nucleus (protons and neutrons) and electrons found in different shells around the nucleus.

**Notes:** Alternatively use students to represent the electron shells.

### 2.5.7 Atoms on the Ground



### 2.5.6 Size of the Nucleus



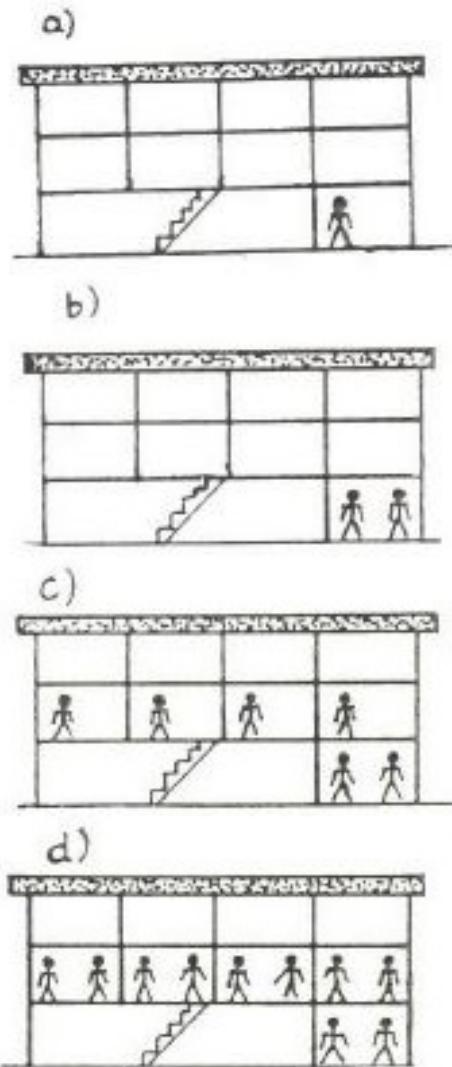
**Observations:** Ask students to imagine how small the nucleus is compared with the size of the whole atom by thinking of the following comparison. If an atom could be magnified to the size of the National Stadium in Dar es Salaam, then the nucleus would have the size of one coin placed on the centre spot. The rest of the atom is just empty space in which the electrons move haphazardly.

**Materials:** Bottle caps or stones, string

**Procedure:** Lay string in circles on the ground to represent the electron shells. Place marked stones or bottle caps to represent protons, neutrons and electrons and construct different atoms.

## Electron Arrangements

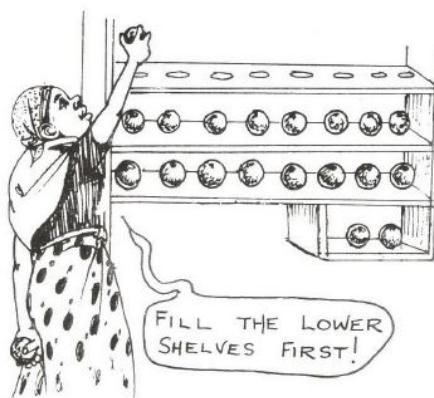
### 2.5.8 Dormitory Model



**Procedure:** Imagine a school has a dormitory with one room on the ground floor, four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. The house master has stated that each room must be occupied by two students. However, upper rooms cannot be occupied until all lower rooms are filled. Pairing only occurs when each room on that floor has at least one student.

**Theory:** This is the same way in which electrons fill electron shells, or energy levels. This configuration is the most stable for electrons.

### 2.5.9 Shelf Model

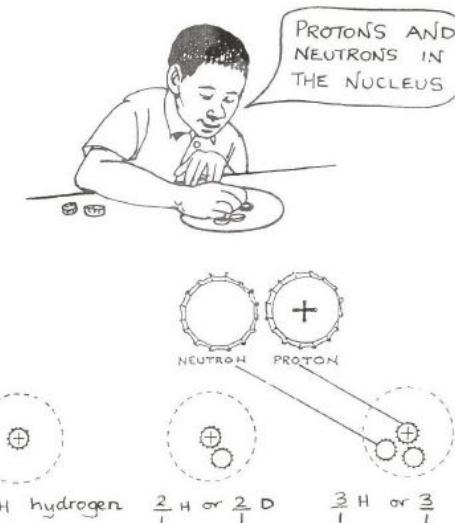


#### Observations:

**Theory:** This is an alternative to the school dormitory model. The rules are similar. The upper shelves cannot be occupied until all the lower shelves are occupied by oranges. This is a simpler model since it does not involve the pairing principle.

## Isotopes

### 2.5.10 Isotope Models



#### Materials:

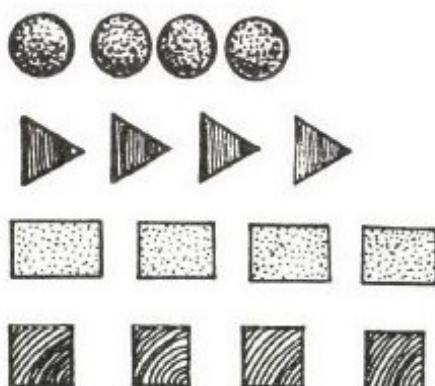
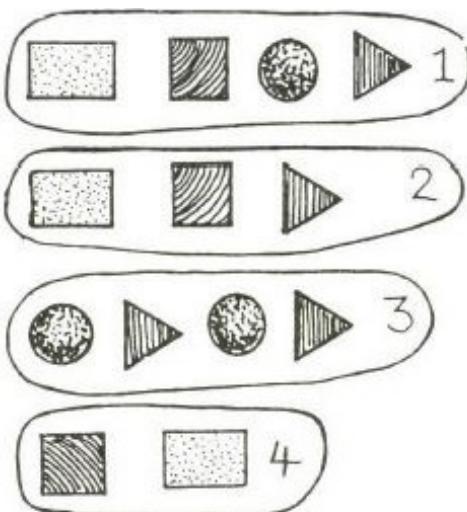
**Procedure:** Cut a large circle from a piece of card to represent the nucleus of an atom. Use bottle caps to represent protons and neutrons. Leave some caps blank for neutrons and mark others '+' for protons. Place bottle caps to show protons and neutrons of some isotopes of hydrogen, oxygen, carbon etc.

**Theory:** Isotopes are atoms of the same element with the same number of protons but different numbers of neutrons. Isotopes of hydrogen are shown.

## 2.6 Periodic Classification

### The Periodic Table

#### 2.6.1 Arranging Shapes



**Materials:** Paper/manila or card, scissors, coloured pencils or markers

**Procedure:** Make several of each of the following shapes: squares ( $3 \times 3$  cm), triangles (3 cm sides), rectangles ( $3 \times 4$  cm), circles (3 cm diameter). Make some of the same shape which are smaller and larger than these as well. Colour them all differently (not according to shape). Mix the shapes and then sort them according to a chosen feature.

**Questions:** How many different ways can you find of grouping the shapes?

#### 2.6.2 Bottle Cap Periodic Table

| P | G R O U P |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
|---|-----------|----|-----|----|---|----|-----|------|
|   | I         | II | III | IV | V | VI | VII | VIII |
| 1 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
| 2 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
| 3 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
| 4 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
| 5 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
| 6 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |
| 7 |           |    |     |    |   |    |     |      |

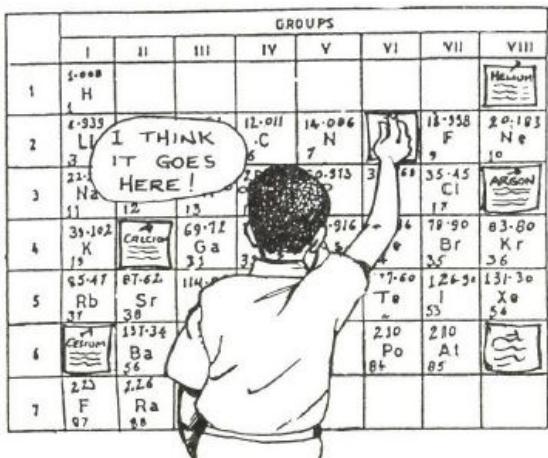
| P | G R O U P |    |     |    |    |    |     |      |
|---|-----------|----|-----|----|----|----|-----|------|
|   | I         | II | III | IV | V  | VI | VII | VIII |
| 1 | H         |    |     |    |    |    |     | He   |
| 2 | Li        | Be | B   | C  | N  | O  | F   | Ne   |
| 3 | Na        | Mg | Al  | Si | P  | S  | Cl  | Ar   |
| 4 | K         | Ca | Ga  | Ge | As | Se | Br  | Kr   |
| 5 | Rb        | Sr | In  | Sn | Sb | Te | I   | Xe   |
| 6 | Cs        | Ba | Tl  | Pb | Bi | Po | At  | Rn   |
| 7 | Fr        | Ra |     |    |    |    |     |      |

**Materials:** Chalk/manila paper, markers, bottle caps, seeds (optional)

**Setup:** Ask the students to draw an empty chart of the periodic table. Then let them write the names of the elements inside the bottle caps. Use different colours for metals, semi-metals and non-metals. Bottle caps for all elements are needed.

**Procedure:** Ask the pupils to place the appropriately labeled bottle caps on the correct squares. As an extension, put seeds around the bottle tops to represent the valence electrons.

### 2.6.3 Periodic Table Game



**Materials:** Manila/flipchart paper, markers, cards, tape

**Setup:** Create a permanent periodic table on manila or flipchart paper to post in the classroom. Make a series of cards for elements as shown above so they fit into the spaces of your periodic table.

**Procedure:** Hang or place cards around the classroom and have students each choose one, read it aloud and place it onto the appropriate position of the table. The student should be asked to explain his/her answer. This exercise also helps to develop language skills (speaking and reading).

**Notes:** You can also give each student one or two elements to make on the cards and then bring them together for the class to share.

### 2.6.4 Periodic Table Guess Who?



**Materials:** Paper, beans/seeds/etc.

**Procedure:** A game for 2 players. Each student thinks of an element from the periodic table. Students take turns asking 'yes' or 'no' questions to determine which element the other is thinking of. For example, "Is your element a noble gas?" or "Does your element have 3 energy levels?" The first player to guess the other player's element is the winner.

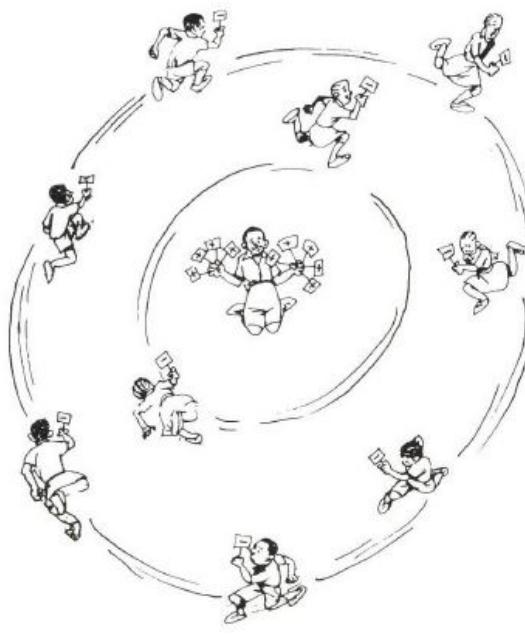
**Notes:** Have students draw a periodic table and use markers (beans, corn kernels, etc.) to cover elements which they have eliminated from their questions.



## 2.7 Bonding, Formula and Nomenclature

### Valence and Chemical Formulae

#### 2.7.1 Student Ions



**Materials:** Cards/paper, students

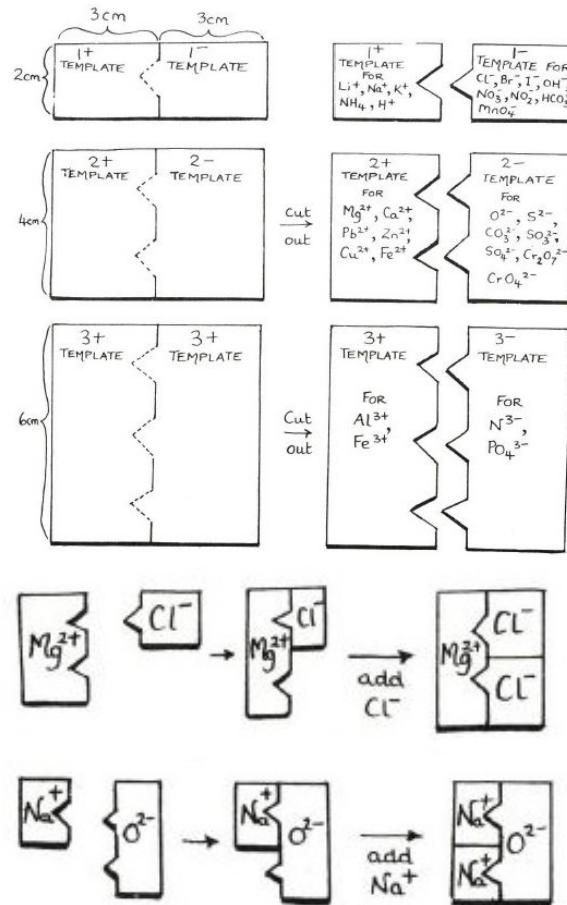
**Setup:** Label many cards with symbols to represent subatomic particles ('+' for protons, '-' for electrons, blank for neutrons).

**Procedure:** Place one chair in a large room to represent a nucleus. Then place chairs in circles around the centre to represent energy levels of electrons - 2 in the first circle, then 8, etc. Have 1 student sit in the middle chair and others in the outer chairs to represent electrons in an atom. Do this for two atoms, e.g. sodium and chlorine. Note that neither atom has a full outer shell. Have students move from one atom to the other in order to fill the outermost shells.

**Theory:** One atom (often a metal) loses electron(s) and another (usually non-metal) gains electron(s). This results in positively and negatively charged *ions*.

**Notes:** Adapt this for covalent bonds as well, having students from each atom move to represent shared electrons.

#### 2.7.2 Ionic Formula Templates

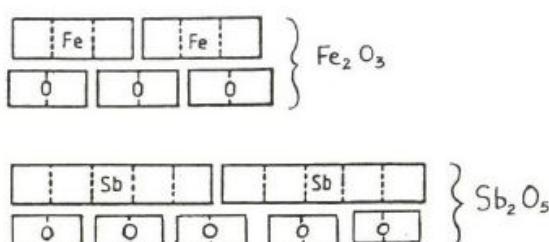
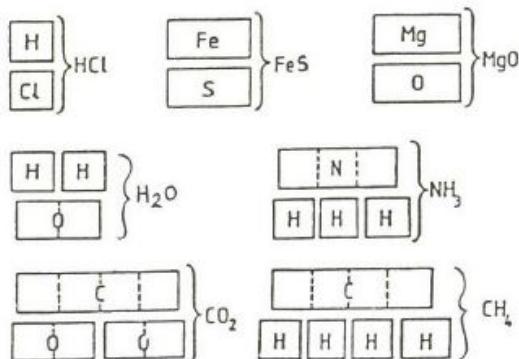


**Materials:** Cardboard, scissors, markers

**Procedure:** Cut out templates for different ions as shown. Use them to make different molecule combinations and then write their chemical formulae based on the templates.

### 2.7.3 Valencies Ruler

[ ] = H, K, Cl, Na.  
 [ ] [ ] = Mg, O, S, Fe.  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] = Al, N, B.  
 [ ] [ ] [ ] = C, Si, Pb.



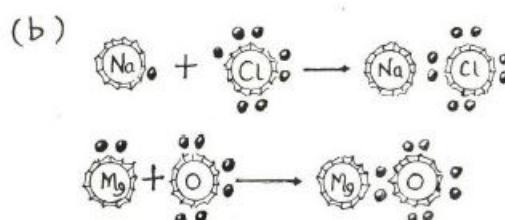
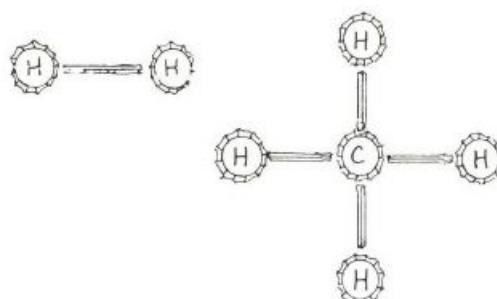
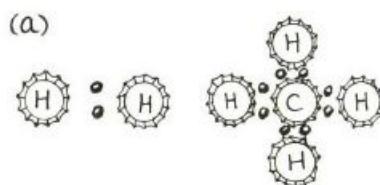
**Materials:** Cardboard, scissors, markers

**Procedure:** Measure and cut strips of paper or cardboard as shown in the figure (valency 1 represented by 1 cm × 1 cm card, valency 2 by 1 cm × 2 cm card, valency 3 by 1 cm × 3 cm etc). Write chemical symbols on the strips. For blackboard figure demonstrations the strips can be bigger.

**Theory:** The valency of an element gives the number of hydrogen atoms which that element can bond to or replace. For example, Group I elements have a valency of 1, and group VI elements such as sulphur have a valency of  $8 - 2 = 6$ .

### Chemical Bonding

#### 2.7.4 Covalent Bonds



**Materials:** Bottle caps, matches, peas/seeds

**Procedure:** Break the heads off of many matches.

A pair of electrons in a covalent bond may be represented by a matchstick without a head, while the heads can be used to represent electrons (a). Ionic bonds can be represented by bottle caps and match heads or stones/seeds as well (b).

**Observations:** It can be seen that the covalent bonds often fill the outermost energy level for the atoms, thus making the arrangement more stable.

**Theory:** In covalent bonds, one or more electrons are shared between atoms.

#### 2.7.5 Student Bonding

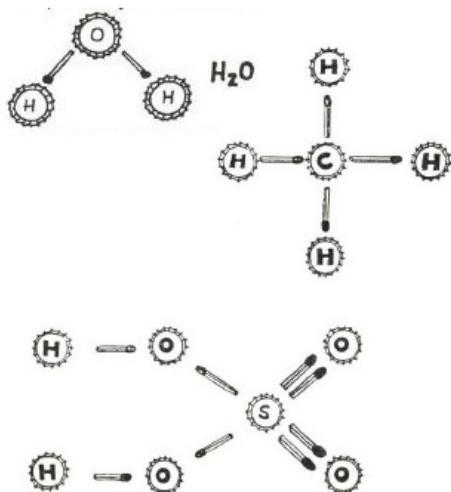
**Materials:** Paper, students

**Procedure:** Give each student a sheet of paper with a different ion written on it. For example, give 1 student a paper reading 'Fe<sup>3+</sup>', and 3 others papers reading 'Cl<sup>-</sup>'. Have the students run around randomly to represent being in an unstable state. Then have them all come together to form a stable molecule of FeCl<sub>3</sub>.

### 2.7.6 Molecule Models



| Common elements<br>recommended colour code for<br>models of atoms and molecules |        |
|---|--------|
| element   | colour |
| carbon  | black  |
| chlorine  | green  |
| iodine  | purple |
| hydrogen  | white  |
| nitrogen  | blue   |
| phosphorus  | cream  |
| sulphur   | yellow |
| copper  | gold   |
| other metals  | silver |



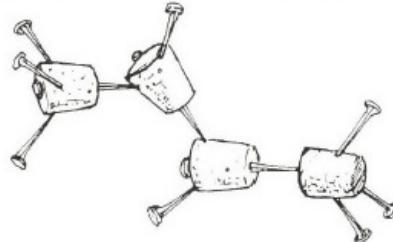
**Materials:** Bottle caps, matches

**Procedure:** Mark the bottle caps with a pen or marker. Matchsticks form the bonds. Colour the bottle caps according to the recommendations given to represent different elements. Try to make all the examples in your textbook.

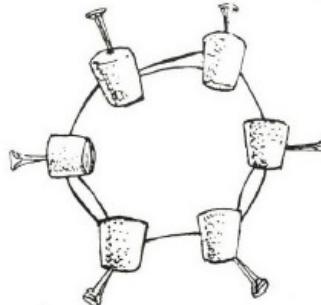
### 2.7.7 3-D Models



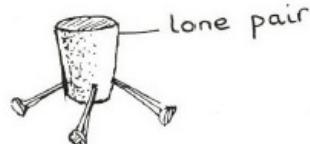
(a) BUTANE  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$



(b) BENZENE  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$



(c) AMMONIA

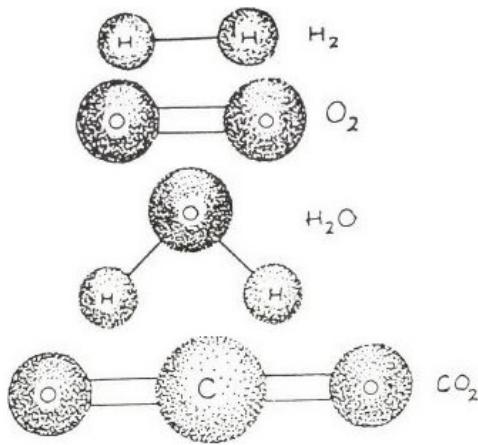


**Materials:** Cork, nails

**Setup:**

**Procedure:** Use this alternative method for 3-dimensional models of molecules. Nails can represent hydrogen atoms and the corks carbon.

### 2.7.8 Additional Model Ideas



**Materials:** Small round objects (e.g. fruits, seeds, cork, foam pieces), wire/string/sticks/matches

**Procedure:** Use the wire, string, etc. for the bonds and the fruits etc. for the atoms. Use the same colour-coding as mentioned above.

### 2.7.9 Model Box



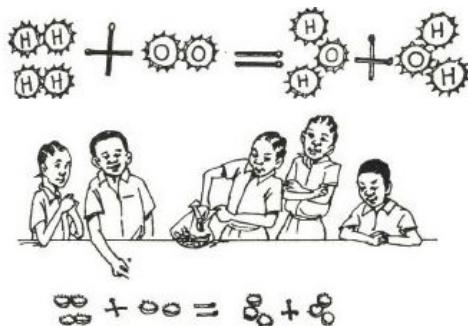
**Materials:** Cardboard box, bottle caps, matches, seeds/peas/etc.

**Procedure:** Create a model box for students to use when making models of atoms, molecules, etc.

# Chemistry Activities for Form III

## 3.1 Chemical Equations

### 3.1.1 Balancing Reactions



**Materials:** Bottle caps, matches

**Procedure:** Use bottle caps and matches to construct the reactants and products of a chemical reaction (e.g.  $2\text{H}_2 + \text{O}_2 \rightarrow 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ).

**Observations:** It can be seen visually how atoms rearrange to form new molecules.

### 3.1.2 Combination Reactions

**Materials:** Sulphur, steel wool, [Heat Source](#), spoon, bar magnet, bottles

**Procedure:** Grind the steel wool to get fine particles. Place a small amount in a bottle and add an equal amount of sulphur powder. Hold a magnet above the mixture and observe. Then heat a small amount of iron filings with twice as much sulphur until the sulphur powder is gone. Again try to separate the mixture with a bar magnet. Finally heat a mixture of the two for an extended time and try to separate with a magnet.

**Hazards:** This reaction produces sulphur dioxide, a poisonous gas. Perform outside or in a well-ventilated room.

**Theory:** Combination is the kind of chemical reaction where two elements come together to form a single compound. The mixture can easily be separated before heating because the iron is magnetic while the sulphur is not. When heated, the iron and sulphur combine to form iron (II) sulphide. Because the two are bound together, they cannot be separated by physical means. When heated for a long time, however, the sulphur escapes as sulphur dioxide, leaving behind iron oxide (a metal) which can be picked up with a magnet.

### 3.1.3 Precipitation Reactions

**Materials:** Copper sulphate, soda ash (sodium carbonate), containers, funnel, cloth

**Setup:** Make solutions of copper sulphate and sodium carbonate by mixing a spoonful in about 500 mL of water (in separate containers).

**Procedure:** In a container, combine a small amount of each solution and filter using a cloth or toilet paper.

**Theory:** A precipitate reaction is the formation of an insoluble salt by mixing solutions which contain its two components. When copper sulphate solution is mixed with sodium carbonate a blue precipitate (calcium carbonate) will form. This reaction is useful for preparing insoluble salts. The chemical reaction is:  
 $\text{CuSO}_{4\text{aq}} + \text{Na}_2\text{CO}_{3\text{aq}} \rightarrow \text{CuCO}_{3\text{s}} + \text{Na}_2\text{SO}_{4\text{aq}}$

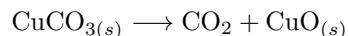
### 3.1.4 Decomposition Reactions

**Materials:** Copper carbonate, citric acid, spoon, [Heat Source](#)

**Setup:** Dry the copper carbonate from the precipitation reaction by leaving in an open container.

**Procedure:** Heat a small sample of copper carbonate in a spoon until only a black residue remains. Add a small amount of citric acid and heat again until only a black residue remains.

**Theory:** Thermal decomposition is when a compound breaks down when heated. When copper carbonate is heated, it decomposes to release carbon dioxide. The black residue can be found by subtracting carbon dioxide from the formula for copper carbonate:

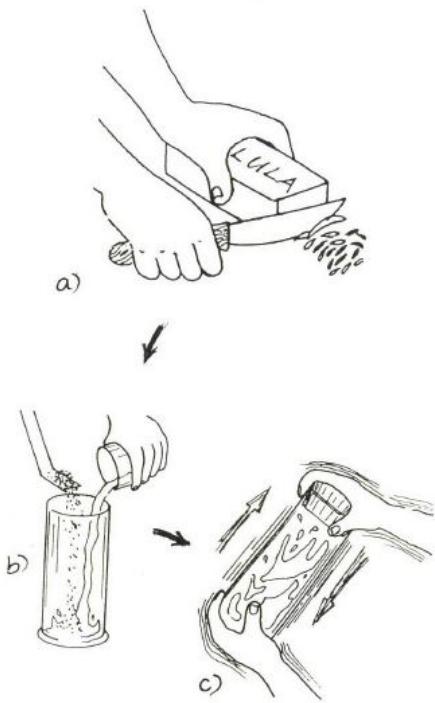


When citric acid is heated, it decomposes twice. First, bubbles of carbon dioxide are released and then, citric acid further decomposes to release water vapor. The black residue at the end of the experiment is solid carbon.

## 3.2 Hardness of Water

### Concept of Hardness of Water

#### 3.2.1 Is the Water Pure?



**Materials:** 2 bottles, tap water, rain water, soap

**Procedure:** Fill one bottle with tap water and another with distilled water (rain water). Add equal amounts of soap into each and shake well.

**Observations:** Soft water foams easily, but hard water will form a scum (white precipitate) and little foam. Distilled water, because it is soft, will foam easily.

**Theory:** Hard water is caused by dissolved solids. However, a part of the hardness can be removed by boiling. Hence, if hard tap-water is boiled, it can become softer.

### Types of Hardness of Water

#### 3.2.2 Temporary and Permanent Hardness

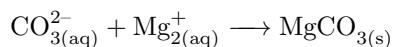
**Materials:** Bottles, syringes, soap, Epsom salt (magnesium sulphate), bicarbonate of soda (sodium hydrogen carbonate), Heat Source, rain water, filter paper, funnel, washing soda (sodium carbonate)

**Setup:** In one bottle add a spoonful of Epson salt with 2 spoons of bicarbonate of soda and water. Stir until the salts dissolve. In a second bottle add a spoonful of Epsom salt with water and stir until dissolved. In a third bottle add rain water. Label the bottles "temporary hard water," "permanent hard water" and "soft water," respectively. Prepare a separate sodium carbonate solution by dissolving 2 spoons of washing soda into 500 mL of water.

**Procedure:** In 3 separate syringes put approximately 5 mL samples of each solution, add soap and shake vigorously. Repeat but instead add a few drops of sodium carbonate solution. Boil a small amount of both temporary and permanent hard water. To the boiled permanent hard water, add a few drops of sodium carbonate solution. Filter the precipitate from the boiled temporary hard water and add a few drops of sodium carbonate.

**Theory:** Magnesium sulphate mixes with sodium hydrogen carbonate solution to produce an aqueous solution of magnesium hydrogen carbonate (temporary hard water). Magnesium sulphate solution is permanent hard water. When the temporary hard water is boiled, a white precipitate of magnesium carbonate should be observed. Boiling the permanent hard water will not cause precipitation. The precipitation occurs because the hydrogen carbonate decomposes on boiling to form a carbonate which then precipitates with magnesium ions.

On boiling:



After boiling and filtering, the sodium carbonate can indicate the presence or lack of magnesium ions. In the soft water and the boiled, filtered temporary hard water, no precipitate will be observed because there is no magnesium ion present. In the permanent hard water, a precipitate will be observed with sodium carbonate

## Treating Hard Water

### 3.2.3 Removing Hardness

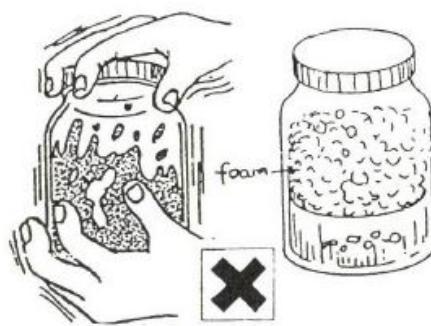
**Materials:** Rock soaked in hard water, vinegar, water, bucket

**Procedure:** Place a rock or other object with hard water remains on it in a bucket. Add equal parts vinegar and water to cover the object and let it sit overnight.

**Observations:** The remains of the hard water will dissolve.

**Theory:** Hard water contains dissolved magnesium or calcium ions. Soft water does not. Calcium and magnesium carbonates dissolve easily in vinegar, and it is difficult to dissolve them back into water.

### 3.2.4 Effect of Soda on Hard Water



**Materials:** Water, soap, bottle, washing soda (sodium carbonate)

**Procedure:** Add some ash extract or washing soda to tap water and shake well. Filter and add soap and shake as described in [Is the Water Pure?](#) (p. 42).

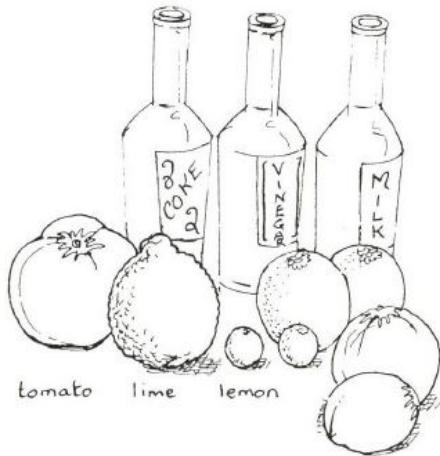
**Observations:** A lot of foam is formed this time.

**Theory:** The water has been softened by this process. The soda (sodium carbonate) precipitates the  $\text{Ca}^{2+}$  and the  $\text{Mg}^{2+}$  ions (which cause the hardness) as the respective carbonates which are filtered off.

### 3.3 Acids, Bases and Salts

#### Acids and Bases

##### 3.3.1 Acids in Daily Life



**Procedure:** Make a list of common acids seen in daily life.

**Observations:** Citrus fruits (tomatoes, oranges, lemons etc.), vinegar, soda, sour milk and battery fluid are examples of everyday acids.

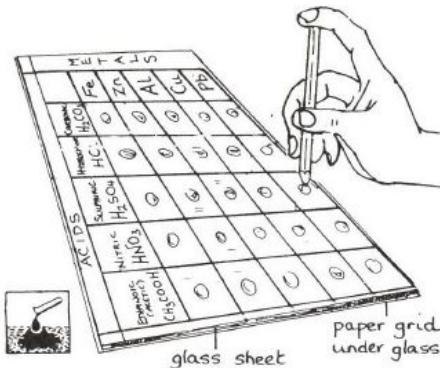
#### 3.3.2 Bases in Daily Life



**Procedure:** Make a list of common acids seen in daily life.

**Observations:** Soap, bicarbonate of soda, toothpaste, ammonia, limewater, cheese, fish, meat and indigestion tablets are all sources of bases.

#### 3.3.3 Acids React with Metals



**Materials:** Syringe, sulphuric acid, zinc (from old dry cell)/nail/aluminium can

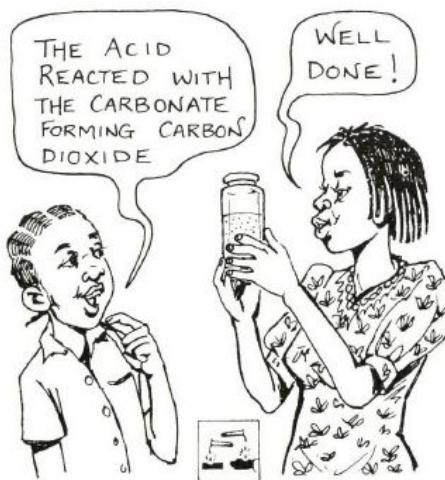
**Procedure:** Using a syringe, add a small amount of acid to various metals on a glass sheet.

**Hazards:** Do not use highly concentrated acids and wear goggles.

**Observations:** A gas is produced.

**Theory:** The gas produced is hydrogen, which can be confirmed with the 'pop' test of holding a match nearby.

#### 3.3.4 Acids React with Carbonates

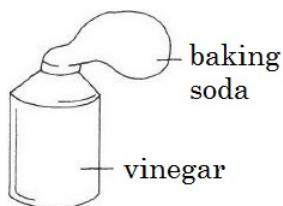


**Materials:** Bottle cap, dilute acid, baking powder, straw

**Procedure:** Add a few drops of dilute acid (e.g. vinegar, citric acid) to a bottle cap full of baking powder.

**Theory:** Acid react with carbonates to form carbon dioxide.

### 3.3.5 CO<sub>2</sub> Balloon



**Materials:** Bottle, baking soda, vinegar, balloon

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of vinegar into a bottle. Fill a balloon with baking soda (bicarbonate of soda) and stretch the balloon over the mouth of the bottle. Lift the balloon to empty the contents into the bottle.

**Observations:** The balloon fills up with gas and may even explode!

**Theory:** The vinegar (acid) and baking soda (base) combine to produce carbon dioxide gas, which gets collected in the balloon.

### 3.3.6 Making a Volcano

**Materials:** Flour, sand, water, glue, vinegar, bicarbonate of soda, food colour

**Setup:** Create a model volcano (see ??, p. ??). Add food colour if desired.

**Procedure:** Fill the pit of the volcano with bicarbonate of soda (with red food colour) and pour in the vinegar.

**Observations:** A foamy 'lava' erupts from the volcano.

**Theory:** Acids and bases react to produce a salt, carbon dioxide and water.

**Applications:** Use this as a science fair experiment at your school.

## Indicators

### 3.3.7 The pH Scale Line



**Materials:** Paper, various acids and bases shown

**Procedure:** Use chalk or string with paper numbers to mark out a pH scale in the classroom. Select some of the items shown and give one to each student. Ask the student to stand at the correct place on the scale.

### 3.3.8 Making Indicators



**Materials:** Coloured flowers, fruits, leaves, water, Heat Source

**Procedure:** Gather different coloured flowers, fruits or leaves. Crush them up and add to boiled water or spirit.

**Theory:** Many red, violet, yellow or pink flowers or fruits and leaves can be used as indicators. Spirit-based indicators are more stable. Boiling improves the extraction of colour.

**Applications:** Students could investigate which local flowers, leaves etc. produce the most effective indicators.

### 3.3.9 Testing for pH

**Materials:** Rosella leaves, paper, straw, hot water, lemon or vinegar, bicarbonate of soda

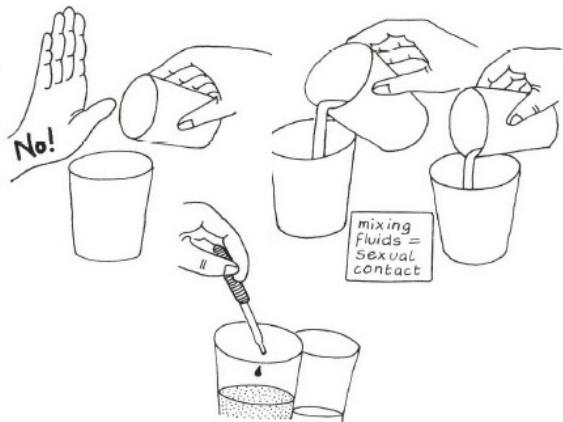
**Setup:** Prepare an indicator solution from rosella leaves by crushing and adding to boiled water.

**Procedure:** Place a small amount of vinegar or lemon juice to one bottle cap and some bicarbonate of soda to another. Add a few drops of indicator to each cap, noting any colour changes that occur.

**Theory:** The vinegar should turn a reddish colour, indicating it is acidic. The bicarbonate of soda a greenish or blue colour, indicating it is a basic.

**Notes:** Dip thin strips of paper in the indicator solution and let dry to make home-made litmus paper.

### 3.3.10 Exchanging Fluids



**Materials:** Plastic bottles, plastic bags, rubber bands or tape, phenolphthalein indicator, sodium hydroxide

**Setup:** Make a solution of NaOH (3-5 tablespoons in 500 mL water). The concentration should be enough so that multiple dilutions of the solution will still show a colour change when PoP is added. Cut enough plastic bottle cups so each student has one. Number each cup and separate into 3 groups (those who abstain, those who use condoms, and those who neither use condoms nor abstain). Make note of which numbers are in which group (but do not reveal until later). There should be at least 2 that abstain, 2 that use condoms, and the rest use neither. No more than 2 people total should start HIV positive (at least 1 being a sexually active non-condom user). Fill all the cups except the ones that will be HIV+ with about 100-200 mL of water. Fill the HIV+ cup(s) with the NaOH solution, making sure the volume is the same as the water-filled cups. Take the plastic bags (condoms) and secure them over each condom user's cup with tape or a rubber band. The plastic should have a slight dip so fluid can still be poured into it while preventing the fluids from mixing.

**Procedure:** Introduce the activity by stating that 1-2 of the cups is HIV+ but do not reveal which one(s). Announce which cup numbers will abstain (meaning which ones will not share fluids with anyone), which ones use condoms (meaning they can receive fluids but do not share them), and which ones use neither (meaning they will be exchanging fluids multiple times with multiple people). Show students that 1 of the non-condom users does not have HIV by adding 1-2 drops of PoP with no colour change. Then take a small sample of leftover NaOH solution and add 1 drop of PoP. Explain that a colour change to

pink/purple, even very slight, means they are HIV+. Randomly give out the different cups and tell students to take 10-15 minutes to exchange fluids with others. Encourage them to return to other "partners" and exchange multiple times. (It is recommended that students mix fluids by pouring so enough fluid is transferred between the two cups.) After the time is up and enough exchanging of fluids has occurred, test every student's cup with 1-2 drops of PoP.

**Hazards:** Be careful when using concentrated NaOH. It can be very caustic if not handled with care. Neutralize spills with a weak acid (e.g. vinegar).

**Questions:** Which students ended up being HIV+ and why? How quickly did HIV spread?

**Observations:** If done correctly, every student except those who abstained or used condoms should test positive for HIV, as seen by a change in colour from the indicator.

**Theory:** Sodium hydroxide solution is a base, and bases turn pink/purple when PoP is added. Even though NaOH is colourless and difficult to tell apart from water (just as HIV+ people are difficult to tell apart from HIV- people), once it is present, it does not go away and can be spread very easily without protection. The activity also shows that even though there was only 1 or 2 people to start with HIV, it spread to practically every person who exchanged fluids (sexually active).

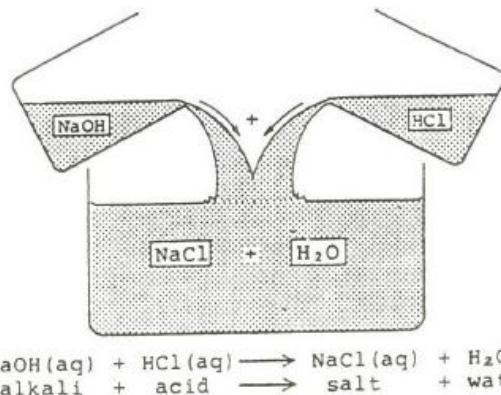
**Applications:** It is important to prevent oneself from getting HIV, and abstinence and using condoms are two highly effective methods of getting HIV.

**Notes:** Instead of using PoP indicator and a strong base, iodine can be used to test for starch. The same setup and procedure is followed, except the starch solution can be water from boiling potatoes, etc. Just make sure the starch solution and water are not distinguishable.

Additionally, this activity can be used to explain the spread of malaria. Instead of every person exchanging fluids, there are 2 main groups: humans and female mosquitoes. This time, only students with syringes (female mosquitoes) inject their solution (saliva) into the human and suck the human's solution (blood) into their own cup. The sucking and injecting should again happen multiple times with multiple people. There can be different groups of humans (those who use mosquito nets, who do not get bit at all, etc.) and no more than 2 female mosquitoes should carry malaria to start.

## Neutralisation

### 3.3.11 Neutralisation Reactions



**Materials:** Sodium hydroxide solution, hydrochloric acid solution, bottles

**Procedure:** Prepare dilute solutions of sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid. Pour the two solutions together in a large container.

**Hazards:** Never use concentrated acids. Always wear goggles when using acids.

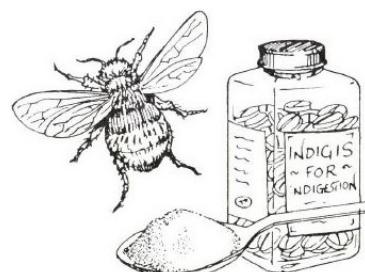
**Theory:** When acids and bases combine, they produce a salt and water. In this case the salt is sodium chloride. The resulting solution is neither acidic nor basic, but neutral.

### 3.3.12 Ant Acid



**Applications:** Many insects, such as bees and ants, inject an acidic liquid into the skin when they sting. The sting can be neutralized by rubbing baking soda (or other alkaline substances such as cucumber and avocado) on the affected area. Wasp stings, however, are alkaline and can be neutralized with vinegar (acetic acid).

### 3.3.13 Neutralisation in Daily Life



**Applications:** Stomach aches are often caused by an excess of acid in the stomach. Taking antacids (magnesium or sodium bicarbonate) neutralizes the acid and relieves the pain.

## Salts

### 3.3.14 Preparation of Salts

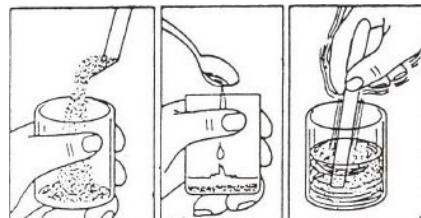


**Materials:** Bottle cap, zinc (from dry cell), hydrochloric acid

**Procedure:** Add some zinc (found in dry cells) to hydrochloric acid.

**Theory:** Acids and metals react to form salts. The chemical equation for this reaction is:  $\text{Zn}(\text{s}) + 2 \text{HCl} \rightarrow \text{ZnCl}_2(\text{s}) + \text{H}_2(\text{g})$

### 3.3.15 Solubility of Salts



**Materials:** Bottle caps, water, kitchen salt (sodium chloride), baking soda (sodium hydrogen carbonate), copper (II) sulphate, gypsum (calcium sulphate)

**Procedure:** For each salt: add a bottle cap full of salt to 5 caps of water and shake well. Observe which salts dissolve in water.

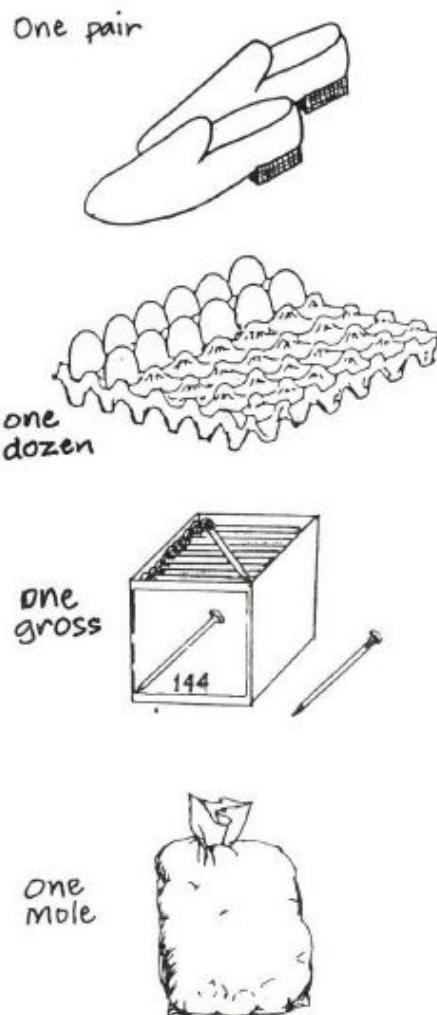
**Observations:** All salts should dissolve except for gypsum (calcium sulphate).

**Theory:** Most sulphates, nitrates and chlorides are soluble in water, while most carbonates are not. Calcium sulphate and sodium carbonate are exceptions to these general rules.

### 3.4 The Mole Concept and Related Calculations

#### The Mole as a Unit of Measurement

##### 3.4.1 Mole as a Number of Particles

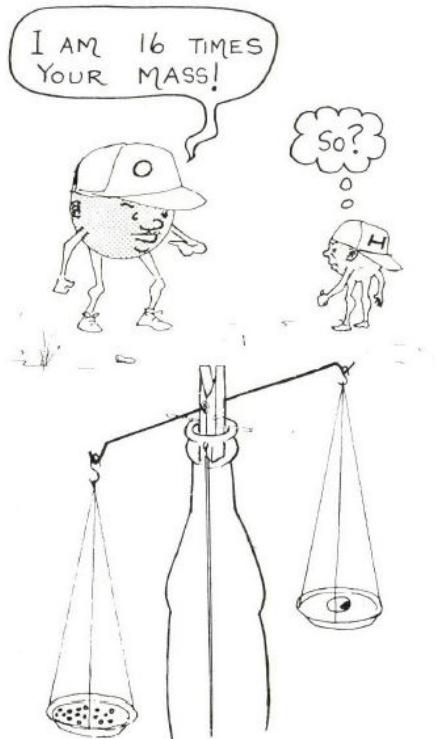


**Theory:** To show that 1 mole is a number of particles or pieces, show that 1 pair = 2 pieces, 1 dozen = 12 pieces, 1 gross = 144 pieces, 1 mole =  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$  particles.

##### 3.4.2 Avogadro's Number

**Theory:** To illustrate the magnitude of Avogadro's number the following comparison can be made: If 1 cm<sup>3</sup> cube of water contains 20 drops of water then Avogadro's number, N =  $20 \times$  the number of drops in all the oceans of the world.

##### 3.4.3 Introducing Particle Masses

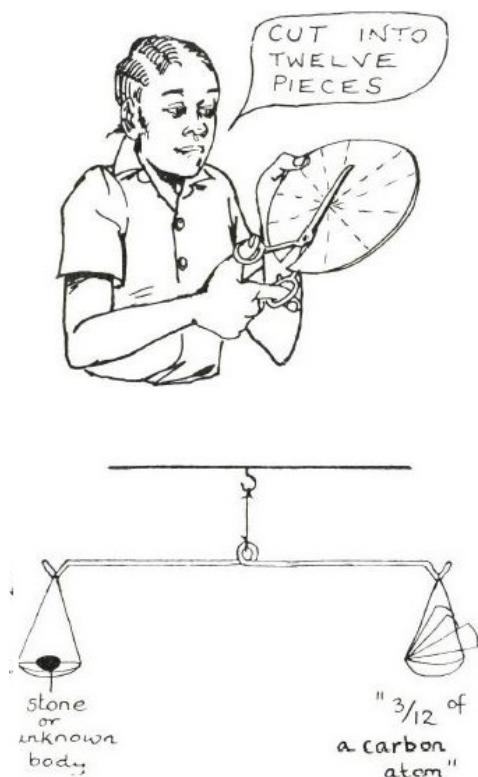


**Materials:** Balance, large seed, small seeds

**Procedure:** Take a balance and one stone/ big seed and weigh how many other seeds make up the same weight. Make sure the objects are at the same distance from the pivot.

**Theory:** Different particles have different masses. The molar mass of a substance is a measure of the weight of a given number of particles of that substance. The standard number of particles used for comparing molar masses is a mol of particles (or  $6.022 \times 10^{23}$ ).

### 3.4.4 Understanding Atomic Mass

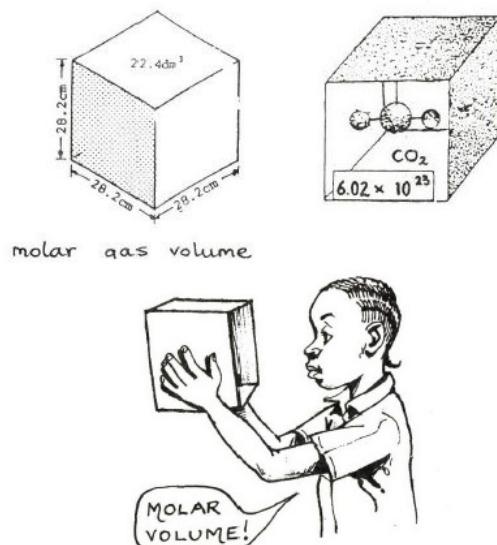


**Materials:** Cardboard, scissors, balance

**Procedure:** Make a cardboard disc from thick cardboard. Divide into 12 parts and cut these out. One part represents  $1/12$ , i.e.  $1/12$  of a carbon atom. Now try to find out by weighing what the masses of some unknown bodies are. These should be heavier than 1 and not exceed 12 pieces.

**Theory:** The mass of an object (atom) can be expressed relative to that of another. This is the concept behind molar mass.

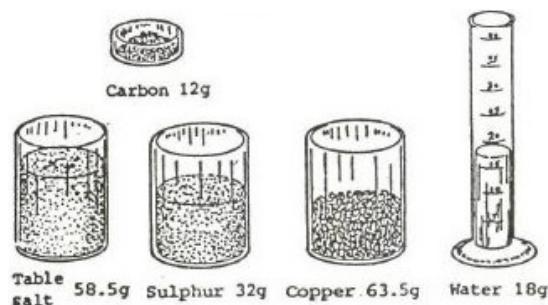
### 3.4.5 Molar Volume of Gases



**Materials:** Cardboard, scissors, tape

**Procedure:** Cut out six  $28.2 \times 28.2$  cm pieces of cardboard. Assemble them to form a cube of volume  $22.4 \text{ dm}^3$ . Construct models of different molecules and place/hang these in the box in order to show that the  $22.4 \text{ dm}^3$  volume is filled with the same type and number of gas molecules. Then write Avogadro's number and attach it to the molecule model, and explain that in one molar volume, there is that number of particles.

### 3.4.6 Molar Volume of Solids and Liquids



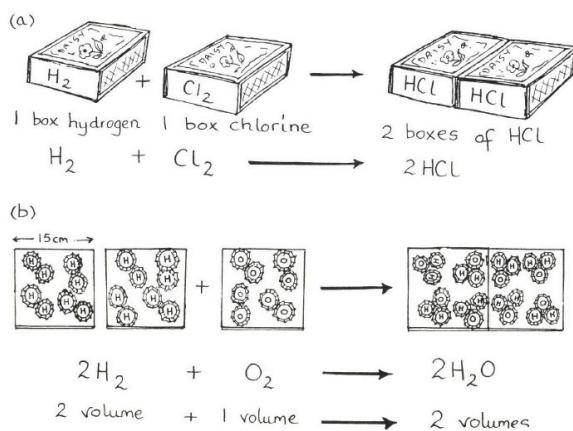
**Materials:** Cups, water, various powders (e.g. carbon, sulphur, copper, salt)

**Procedure:** If you have a suitable balance, weigh out one mole of various substances as shown in the figure.

**Theory:** The molar volume of different solids and liquids is very different. Only the molar volumes of gases - at the same temperature and pressure - are the same.

**Notes:** To measure water, use 18 mL, since  $1 \text{ mL} = 1 \text{ cm}^3$  and the density of water is about  $1 \text{ g/cm}^3$ .

### 3.4.7 Avogadro's Law



**Materials:** Matchboxes, bottle caps

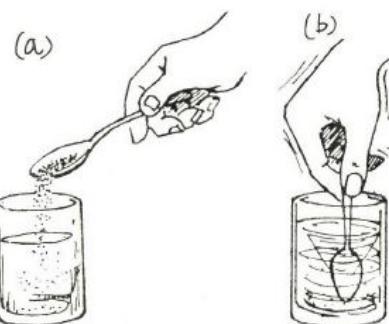
**Observations:** Each matchbox (all the same size) represents the same volume and each molecule in it the same number of particles.

**Theory:** Avogadro's Law states, that at the same temperature and pressure equal volumes of different gases contain the same number of particles.

**Applications:** Chemical reactions may lead to same or different volumes, e.g. in HCl and H<sub>2</sub>O formation respectively.

### Dilution

#### 3.4.8 Salt Dilution



**Materials:** Salt, syringe, water, 5 bottles, food colour (optional)

**Procedure:** In one bottle, add 100 mL water and enough salt to saturate the solution. With a syringe remove 10 mL and add to another bottle with 90 mL of clean water. Now take 10 mL of this solution and add to another bottle with 90 mL of clean water. Repeat this several times, tasting a bit of each solution as you continue.

**Observations:** The solution tastes less salty each time.

**Theory:** The ratio of solute to solvent (salt to water) decreases each time fresh water is added. Hence, the solution becomes more and more diluted.

**Notes:** Try also using food colour for a visual representation.



## 3.5 Ionic Theory and Electrolysis

### 3.5.1 Displacement of Copper

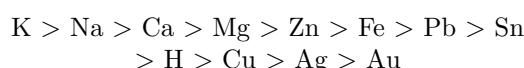
**Materials:** Steel wool, copper (II) sulphate, water, bottle

**Setup:** Prepare a copper (II) sulphate solution by dissolving a spoonful of crystals in about 500 mL of water.

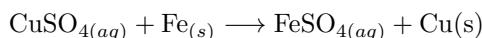
**Procedure:** Pour 50 mL of the copper (II) sulphate solution into the container. Dip the steel wool into the solution and observe what happens.

**Observations:** A layer of brown copper metal forms on the surface of the steel wool (this is not rust).

**Theory:** Metals can be arranged according to their reactivity, i.e. how likely they are to form positive ions. A metal higher in the reactivity series will displace a lower metal from a solution.



Iron is higher than copper on the reactivity series, meaning iron ions displace copper ions in solution and the copper ions are deposited as copper metal.



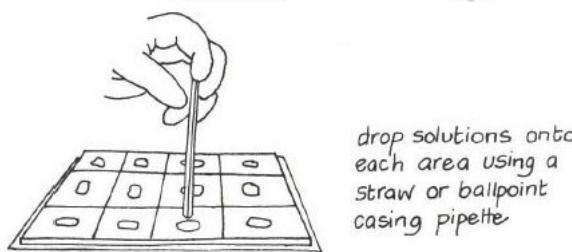
### 3.5.2 Reactivity Rates Analogies



### 3.5.3 Reactivity Series of Metals

|                  | Cu | Fe | Mg | Zn | Pb |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
| Cu <sup>2+</sup> | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  |
| Fe <sup>2+</sup> | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  |
| Mg <sup>2+</sup> | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  |
| Zn <sup>2+</sup> | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  |
| Pb <sup>2+</sup> | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  | ○  |

metal samples



**Materials:** Glass sheet, large sheet of paper, metals, solutions of metal ions (see below)

**Setup:** Gather and clean small pieces of various metals (e.g. copper wire, iron wool, magnesium ribbon, zinc plate from dry cell, lead shot). Gather some solutions containing metal ions (e.g. copper (II) sulphate, iron (II) sulphate, magnesium sulphate, zinc sulphate, lead nitrate).

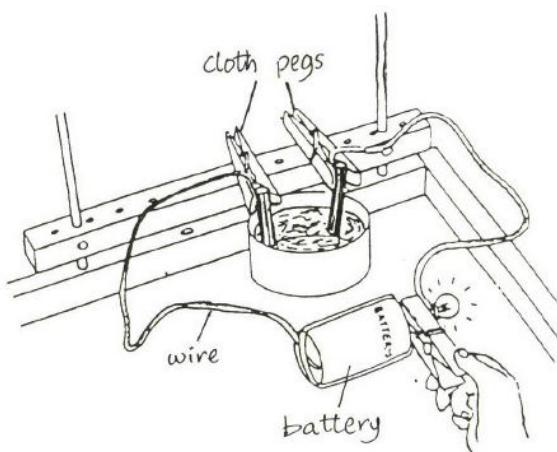
**Procedure:** Make a grid on the paper as shown. Place the glass sheet over the paper grid. Place the metals on the appropriate squares. Add 2-3 drops of a solution to each metal and observe and change.

**Observations:** On some of the squares a black or red (in the case of copper displacement) coating is formed on the surface of the metal.

**Theory:** If a black coating forms on the metal it indicates that the metal ions are being displaced from the solution and deposited onto the metal. This shows that the metal is more reactive than the ion in solution. For example if Fe<sup>2+</sup> ions in solution are dropped onto magnesium, the magnesium displaces the Fe<sup>2+</sup> ions and a black coating of iron can be seen on the surface of the magnesium.

## Electrolytes and Non-Electrolytes

### 3.5.4 Electrolytes



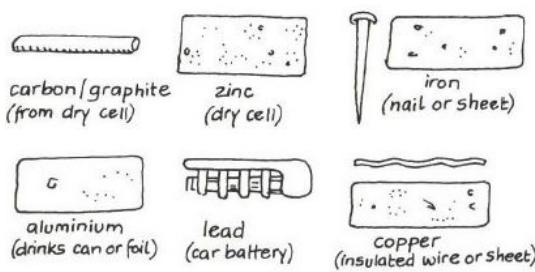
**Materials:** Table salt, distilled water, sugar, vinegar/citric acid, sulphuric acid, bottles, dry cells, clothes pegs, bulb/ammeter, speaker wire, 2 carbon electrodes (from dry cell)

**Setup:** Connect the circuit in series as shown. Take carbon electrodes from an old dry cell.

**Procedure:** Place the two carbon electrodes in a container of water. On a piece of paper, pour out some table salt crystals and touch the electrodes to them. Dissolve the salt in the water and again test for conductivity. Repeat with citric acid crystals and solution, then sugar crystals and solution, rinsing the electrodes between tests. Finally test the electrodes in a dilute sulphuric acid solution, rinse, then in vinegar.

**Theory:** Bubbles of gas at the electrodes indicate the flow of an electric current. Substances which conduct electricity in solution are called *electrolytes*. No substance will conduct electricity in the solid state but some of them will conduct in the dissolved state. Sodium chloride (table salt) is a *strong electrolyte* - the bulb burns brightly. Vinegar and citric acid are *weak electrolytes* - the bulb burns dimly. Sugar is a *non-electrolyte* - the bulb does not light. The bulb is brighter in sulphuric acid solution than in vinegar even though they are about the same concentration, because the sulphuric acid dissociates completely while citric acid/vinegar only partially dissociate into ions.

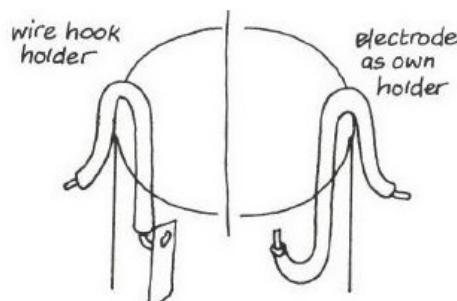
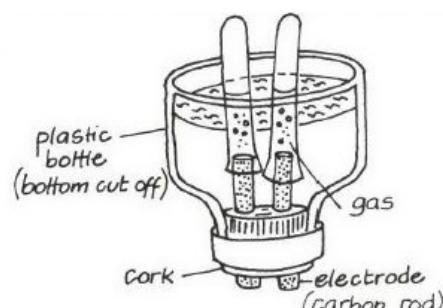
### 3.5.5 Electrodes



| electrolytes                          | cathode          | anode            |
|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| HCl (half-conc)                       | graphite         | graphite         |
| alkali - chlorides (2M)               | iron / graphite  | graphite         |
| alkali - hydroxide (2M)               | iron             | iron             |
| H <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (2M)   | lead or graphite | lead             |
| Na <sub>2</sub> SO <sub>4</sub> (16%) | iron             | lead             |
| Cu SO <sub>4</sub>                    | graphite         | graphite or lead |

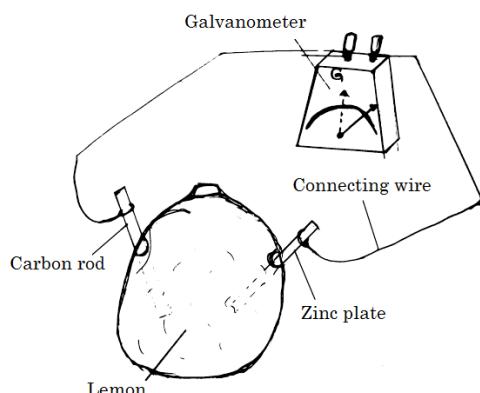
**Theory:** The materials shown here can be used as electrodes in electrolysis activities. Use the table to find the appropriate matching of electrolyte and electrodes.

### 3.5.6 Electrolysis Setups



**Procedure:** Use any of the designs shown for setting up electrolysis experiments.

### 3.5.7 Electrolytes in Food



**Materials:** Lemons, zinc plate and carbon rod from old dry cell, connecting wires, galvanometer, bulb

**Procedure:** Make two holes in a lemon and insert the carbon rod and zinc plate into the holes. Connect the lemon to the galvanometer using connecting wires and notice any deflection that may occur. Repeat for several lemons by placing them in series and in parallel.

**Observations:** The deflection increases with the number of lemons placed in series. With enough lemons, the bulb will light up.

**Theory:** Electric current can be produced from different cells - dry and wet. Wet cells can be made from natural foods such as lemons, Irish potatoes and salts which are strong electrolytes and hence produce electric current.

## Mechanism of Electrolysis

### 3.5.8 Electrochemical Series

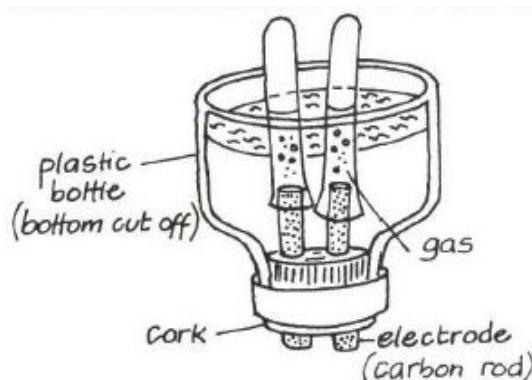
**Materials:** Paper, marker pens, tape

**Setup:** Tape sheets labeled "Cathode" and "Anode" on opposite walls of the room. Make signs for students to represent cations and anions in a particular electrolyte. Each student should represent only one ion (e.g. Na<sup>+</sup>, Cl<sup>-</sup>, H<sup>+</sup> and OH<sup>-</sup> for NaCl solution).

**Procedure:** Students walk around the room. When you say go (representing the start of current flow), the students move to their respective electrodes (anions to anodes and cations to cathodes). Students (ions) lower in the electrochemical series must walk while those higher in the series run.

**Theory:** Many factors affect ion discharge at electrodes, one of which is order of preference in the electrochemical series. Products at the electrodes depend on the discharged ions. Those at the top of the series take preference and are discharged instead of the lower ions.

### 3.5.9 Electrolysis of Water



**Materials:** Bottle, clothes pegs, dry cells, 2 syringes, speaker wire, bulb, water, table salt

**Setup:** Remove 2 carbon electrodes from old dry cell batteries. Connect the electrodes and bulb in series with 3-4 dry cells.

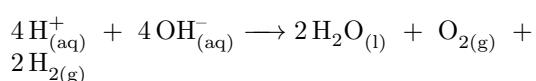
**Procedure:** Fix the electrodes in a cork or bottle top (with super glue to seal). Place an overturned empty syringe tube over each electrode. Fill the container with a dilute sodium chloride solution by dissolving table salt in water. Close the circuit.

**Observations:** Bubbles at the electrodes indicate a reaction of electrolysis.

**Theory:** The cations present are H<sup>+</sup> from water and Na<sup>+</sup> from the sodium chloride. These migrate to the cathode, where the H<sup>+</sup> are discharged because hydrogen is lower than sodium in the reactivity series, and so *hydrogen gas is formed at the cathode*.

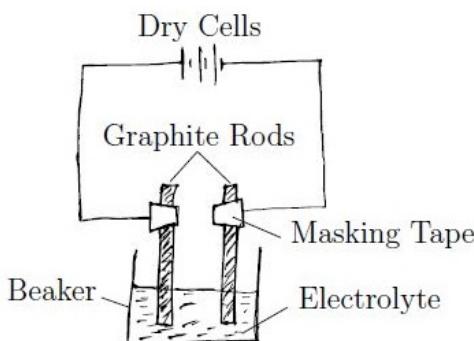
At the anode, OH<sup>-</sup> ions from water are discharged in favor of Cl<sup>-</sup> ions from salt, and so *oxygen gas is formed at the anode*.

The complete chemical equation for this reaction is:



The volume of hydrogen gas produced is twice as large as that of oxygen.

### 3.5.10 Indicator Electrolysis



**Materials:** Clear bottle, phenolphthalein (POP) indicator, water, salt, 4 dry cells (2 live, 2 dead) speaker wire

**Setup:** Strip the ends of the speaker wire. Carefully remove the carbon cores from the dead dry cells and wrap the stripped wires around the tops of them. In the container, make a saturated saline solution (keep dissolving salt until you can't dissolve anymore.) Add a few drops of POP indicator to the saline solution.

**Procedure:** Place the two carbon electrodes into the solution and attach them in series to the two remaining dry cells.

**Hazards:** Beware of battery acid from corroded batteries when removing the carbon cores. Additionally, in theory, the electrolytic cell will eventually produce dangerous chlorine gas (though this would require much time and a large setup).

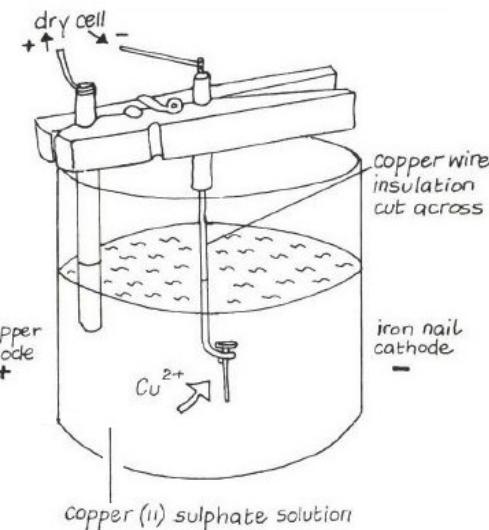
**Observations:** The solution changes from transparent to a pink/purple colour as current continues to run through the solution. When the current is removed, the solution eventually returns to a colourless state.

**Theory:** As the current runs through the saline solution (electrolyte), the gases given off at the cathode and anode are hydrogen and oxygen respectively. While much of the hydrogen escapes as gas, some of the oxygen dissolves back in solution and causes it to become more basic (more  $\text{OH}^-$  ions exist compared to  $\text{H}^+$  ions). As the solution becomes more basic, it turns to purple due to the presence of POP. (POP turns pink/purple in the presence of bases.) Upon the removal of current, the dissolved oxygen escapes as oxygen gas or rejoins with hydrogen ions to reform water, causing the solution to return to a neutral pH.

**Notes:** The purple colour originates at the anode. After connecting and reconnecting the circuit multiple times, the solution will remain more basic and the colour will not return to being transparent.

### Application of Electrolysis

#### 3.5.11 Electroplating



**Materials:** Dry cells, iron nail, copper wire, speaker wire, copper (II) sulphate, water, bottle

**Setup:** Strip or scrape the insulation from the copper wire as shown and connect to the nail. Connect this end to the *negative* terminal of the dry cell. To the positive terminal connect another stripped piece of copper wire. Place a copper (II) sulphate solution in the container.

**Procedure:** Submerge the nail and loose copper wire into the solution.

**Observations:** In a short time, the nail becomes pinkish as copper deposits on its surface. If left for a long time, the loose copper wire will disappear.

**Theory:** The copper metal (anode) oxidizes to form  $\text{Cu}^{+}$  ions, which migrate towards the cathode (iron nail) where reduction takes place. The copper ions gain electrons to once again form copper metal on the surface of the nail.

**Applications:** Chrome plating of jewelry, etc. uses this process with chromium in place of copper. Galvanized nails are iron nails with zinc electroplated onto their surface to prevent rusting.

**Notes:** Use any conducting object in place of the nail, e.g. spoon, graphite electrode, etc.

## 3.6 Chemical Kinetics, Equilibrium and Energetics

### Rate of Chemical Reactions

#### 3.6.1 Effect of Temperature on Reaction Rate

**Materials:** 4 syringes, [Test Tube Racks](#), vinegar, baking soda, water [Heat Source](#)

**Setup:** Prepare a solution of sodium hydrogen carbonate (baking soda) by dissolving about 3 teaspoons per litre of water.

**Procedure:** Arrange 4 syringe test tubes in the rack and label them 1, 2, 3 and 4. Add about 3 mL of acid to tubes 1 and 2. Add 3 mL of base to tubes 3 and 4. Heat tubes 2 and 4 in the boiling water bath until they are near boiling. Pour tube 3 into tube 1, and pour tube 4 into tube 2.

**Observations:** The reaction between tubes 2 and 4 produces bubbles much faster than the reaction between tubes 1 and 3.

**Theory:** The rate of a chemical reaction increases with an increase in temperature.

#### 3.6.2 Effect of Concentration on Reaction Rate

**Materials:** 3 bottles, 3 syringes, baking soda, vinegar, nail, super glue

**Setup:** Poke a hole through the lids of 3 bottles using a heated nail. Insert the tip of a 20 mL syringe in each and seal with super glue.

**Procedure:** Add 4, 2 and 1 teaspoons of baking soda to each of the 3 bottles respectively. Dilute each to 20 mL using water. Put 10 mL of vinegar in the first syringe, 5 mL in the second, and 2.5 mL in the third. Dilute each to 20 mL using water. Screw on each cap to its corresponding bottle and empty all 3 syringes at once.

**Observations:** As the reaction proceeds, the syringes are pushed upward. The first syringe is pushed up first, followed by the second and then the third.

**Theory:** The combination of baking soda (bicarbonate of soda) and vinegar produces carbon dioxide as a product, which pushes the syringe plunger upwards and fills the syringe. The higher the concentration of the reactants, the faster the reaction will proceed.

#### 3.6.3 Effect of Surface Area on Reaction Rate

**Materials:** 2 syringes/bottles, dilute sulphuric acid, iron nail, iron wool

**Procedure:** Add small but equal amounts of dilute sulphuric acid to each container. In one, place an iron nail. In the other, place a piece of iron wool.

**Hazards:** Dilute sulphuric acid is corrosive to the skin and clothes and can cause damage to the eyes. Neutralize spills with baking soda.

**Observations:** Bubbles of hydrogen gas should be observed on the iron in both containers. The rate of bubble formation, however, should be much faster on the steel wool. After a minute, the difference in the rate of reaction should be observed.

**Theory:** The bubbles form much more quickly from the steel wool than from the iron nail because it has a much higher surface area.

#### 3.6.4 Effect of a Catalyst on Reaction Rate

**Materials:** Old dry cell, hydrogen peroxide, 2 bottles, 2 balloons

**Setup:** Remove the dark powder (manganese dioxide) from an old dry cell.

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of hydrogen peroxide to each bottle. Add the manganese dioxide powder to one and then cover both bottles with balloons.

**Observations:** The balloon on the bottle containing manganese dioxide inflates, while the other does not.

**Theory:** Hydrogen peroxide decomposes very slowly at room temperature into water and oxygen gas. The manganese (IV) oxide from the battery *catalyzes* this reaction (speeds it up). Hence there is a notable change in the size of the balloon. The manganese (IV) oxide acts as a catalyst only by speeding up the reaction, not by increasing the amount of products formed.

**Notes:** The manganese dioxide does not get used up in this reaction. It can be dried and used again.

### 3.6.5 Organic and Inorganic Catalysts

**Materials:** Old dry cell, hydrogen peroxide, 4 syringes, water, yeast, **Heat Source**, 4 balloons

**Setup:** Remove the dark powder (manganese dioxide) from an old dry cell.

**Procedure:** Add 5 mL of water to each syringe and label them 1, 2, 3 and 4. Add yeast to tubes 1 and 2. Add manganese dioxide to tubes 3 and 4. Heat tubes 2 and 4 in a hot water bath until they boil. Add 5 mL of hydrogen peroxide to each tube simultaneously and quickly cap them with balloons.

**Observations:** Tube 4 inflates most quickly, while tube 2 does not inflate or does very little. Tubes 1 and 3 inflate at a slower rate.

**Theory:** Both catalase from yeast and manganese (IV) oxide from batteries act as catalysts. Catalase is a biological catalyst, while manganese (IV) oxide is not. Boiling the yeast in tube 2 destroys its catalase and hence slows down the reaction. Heating does not hinder the manganese dioxide, but in fact speeds up the reaction (tube 4). Tubes 1 and 3 still catalyze the reaction.

#### Applications:

**Notes:** Biological catalysts are subject to variations in the environment that kill or destroy biological activity.

## Reversible and Irreversible Reactions

### 3.6.6 Reversible Chemical Reaction

**Materials:** Copper (II) sulphate, spoon, **Heat Source**, water

**Setup:** Grind the copper (II) sulphate crystals into powder.

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of copper (II) sulphate to a metal spoon and heat gently over the heat source. Stop heating when the crystals have changed from blue to white. Let the spoon cool, and add a couple drops of water to the white crystals.

**Observations:** The crystals regain their blue colour upon addition of water.

**Theory:** Heating the copper (II) sulphate changes it from blue ( $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$ ) to white ( $\text{CuSO}_4$ ). Adding water reverses this reaction and returns the crystals to their original hydrated state (blue).

## Endothermic and Exothermic Reactions

### 3.6.7 Temperature Bottles



**Materials:** 3 plastic bottles, powdered soap, citric acid, spoon

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of water to each bottle. Add 3 spoons of powdered laundry soap (e.g. Omo, Foma) to the first bottle. Add 3 spoons of citric acid to the second bottle and nothing to the third bottle. Shake each vigorously and feel to observe any changes in temperature.

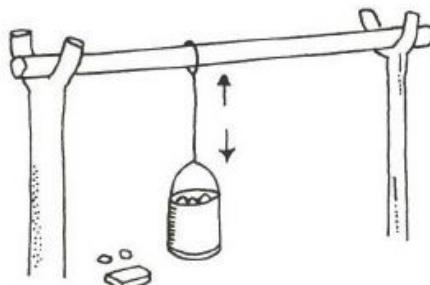
**Theory:** The dissolution of laundry soap in water is exothermic – this bottle should get warmer. The dissolution of citric acid is endothermic – this bottle should get cooler.

## 3.7 Extraction of Metals

### Chemical Properties of Metals

#### 3.7.3 Conductivity

##### 3.7.1 Ductility



**Materials:** Supports, metal wire, weights

**Procedure:** Suspend the wire between supports and hang a weight onto the free end. One method is illustrated. Measure the length of the wire. Add weights and the wire will stretch.

**Theory:** The physical strength, or *tensile strength* of a metal is its ability to withstand applied force without breaking.

**Notes:** As an extension, compare the ductility of wires made from different metals.

##### 3.7.2 Malleability

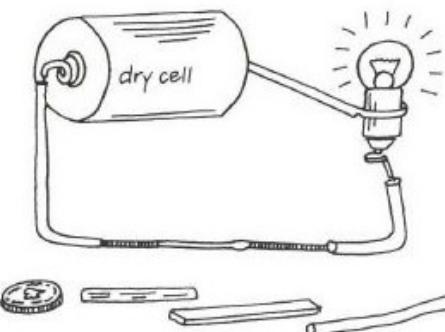


**Materials:** Aluminum can/roofing, hammer

**Procedure:** Hammer a crushed can, sheet of aluminium roofing, a zinc case of a dry cell or any available metal.

**Observations:** The metal spreads out.

**Theory:** When force is applied the metal ions in the giant metallic structure can move over each other like ball bearings and hence spread out.



**Materials:** Dry cell, wires, bulb, metals (e.g. nail, zinc plate, copper wire, etc.), various items (e.g. graphite, pen, pencil, etc.)

**Procedure:** Set up the circuit as shown. Try various metals and non-metals to see which ones complete the circuit and light the bulb.

**Observations:** Metals light the bulb.

**Theory:** Metals contain a "sea of electrons" which are mobile. When these are made to flow in a conductor with the aid of a battery an electrical current flows and the bulb is lit. Non-metal structures do not in general have this sea of electrons except carbon in the form of graphite, which has delocalised, mobile electrons between the layers of carbon atoms.

## 3.8 Compounds of Metals

### Metal Oxides

#### 3.8.1 Direct Preparation of a Metal Oxide

**Materials:** Copper wire, Heat Source, spoon

**Setup:** Clean the copper wire by scraping or burning off the insulation.

**Procedure:** Heat the copper wire strongly over a flame and observe any changes.

**Observations:** Copper metal reacts with air to form black copper (II) oxide.

**Notes:** This experiment can also be tried with zinc metal, which turns yellow when heated strongly in air. The yellow colour turns white when allowed to cool. This product which is yellow when hot and white when cold is zinc oxide ( $ZnO$ ).

#### 3.8.2 Indirect Preparation of a Metal Oxide

**Materials:** Zinc metal, battery acid (5 M sulphuric acid), bottle, washing soda (sodium carbonate), cloth, Heat Source, spoon

**Setup:** Prepare a solution of sodium carbonate by dissolving two tablespoons in about 500 mL of water. Remove the zinc plate from an old dry cell.

**Procedure:** Put about 10 mL of sulphuric acid (battery acid) into a beaker. Add a small piece of zinc metal and allow it to dissolve. After the zinc has completely dissolved, add about 10 mL of sodium carbonate solution. Allow the precipitate to settle and then filter and collect it on the metal spoon. Heat the sample strongly on the spoon until a colour change is noted.

**Observations:** The precipitate changes from white to yellow when heated.

**Theory:** When zinc reacts with dilute sulphuric acid, a soluble zinc sulphate salt forms by displacement reaction. When sodium carbonate is added, zinc carbonate precipitate is formed ( $ZnCO_3$ ).  $ZnCO_3$  is white in colour. When heated, the gas  $CO_2$  is evolved and the residue is  $ZnO$ . The  $ZnO$  is yellow when hot and white when cold.

### Metal Hydroxides

#### 3.8.3 Preparation of Metal Hydroxides

**Materials:** Steel wool, battery acid (5 M sulphuric acid), caustic soda (sodium hydroxide), cloth, funnel, bottles

**Setup:** Prepare a sodium hydroxide solution by adding 1 spoon of sodium hydroxide to 100 mL of water.

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of steel wool to one container. Add about 10 mL of battery acid, adding more steel wool until all of the acid is consumed. Note the colour of the solution.

When the reaction is finished, decant the contents of the bottle into a container of sodium hydroxide. A precipitate should form immediately. Observe the colour of the precipitate. Pour the mixture with the precipitate into the filter funnel. Leave to filter. Observe any change in colour. Once most of the liquid has passed through the filter, remove the solid from the filter funnel and leave to dry.

**Theory:** The steel wool reacts with sulphuric acid to form iron (II) sulphate. This solution reacts with sodium hydroxide solution to produce a green, gelatinous precipitate of iron (II) hydroxide. On exposure to air, this precipitate oxidizes to reddish brown iron (III) hydroxide.

## Carbonates and Hydrogen-Carbonates

### 3.8.4 Preparation of Copper Carbonate

**Materials:** Epsom salt (magnesium sulphate) and/or copper (II) sulphate, washing soda (sodium carbonate), funnel, cotton wool, beakers, spoons

**Setup:** Stuff cotton wool into the funnel to plug the hole at the bottom.

**Procedure:** In one beaker, add 2 spoons of magnesium sulphate or 1 spoon of copper sulphate to about 100 mL of water and stir until dissolved. In a second beaker, add 2 spoons of sodium carbonate to about 100 mL of water and stir until dissolved.

Add the sodium carbonate solution to the magnesium sulphate / copper sulphate solution. A precipitate should form immediately. Filter the precipitate and allow it to dry.

**Theory:** When magnesium sulphate solution is mixed with sodium carbonate solution, magnesium carbonate precipitates. When copper sulphate solution is mixed with sodium carbonate solution, copper carbonate precipitates. This demonstrates the preparation of metal carbonates by precipitation reactions.

### 3.8.5 Preparation of Calcium Carbonate



**Materials:** Straw, lime water, bottle, test tube

**Procedure:** Add some lime water to a bottle or syringe. Blow into the solution through a straw.

**Observations:** The solution turns a milky white colour.

**Theory:** Carbon dioxide blown from the straw will react with lime water  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$  to form a white precipitate of  $\text{CaCO}_3$ . This shows that carbon dioxide reacts with an alkali solution.

## Metal Sulphates

### 3.8.6 Preparation of Zinc Sulphate

**Materials:** Zinc metal, dilute sulphuric acid, bottles, evaporating dish, [Heat Source](#), steel wool

**Setup:** Clean a zinc plate from an old dry cell using steel wool and cut it into small pieces.

**Procedure:** Add zinc pieces to a bottle followed by dilute sulphuric acid. After all the zinc has reacted, heat the solution on an evaporating plate until crystals are visible and collect the remains.

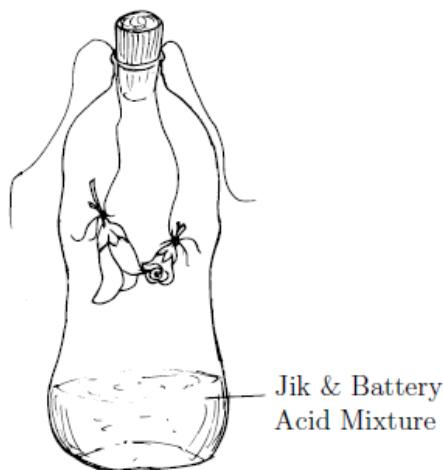
**Theory:** Zinc reacts with the sulphuric acid and replaces hydrogen gas and form soluble zinc sulphate. The product formed from the evaporation of the zinc sulphate solution is the white solid zinc sulphate.

# Chemistry Activities for Form IV

## 4.1 Non-Metals and Their Compounds

### Chlorine

#### 4.1.1 Preparation of Chlorine Gas



**Materials:** Bleach, battery acid (5 M sulphuric acid), coloured flowers, string or thread, bottle

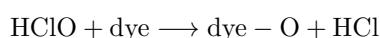
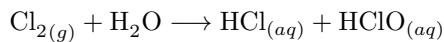
**Setup:** Collect coloured flowers. 2. Cut about 30 cm of string for each flower and tie one to each flower.

**Procedure:** Put about 100 ml of bleach (e.g. Jik) in the bottle. Hang the flowers in the bottle using the strings. Tie the free end of the string around the neck of the bottle. Add about 10 ml of battery acid to the bottle and quickly close the cap. Allow the bottle to sit for 5 minutes.

**Hazards:** This reaction produces chlorine, a poisonous gas. Perform this reaction outside standing upwind. No students should attempt to prepare chlorine outside of school.

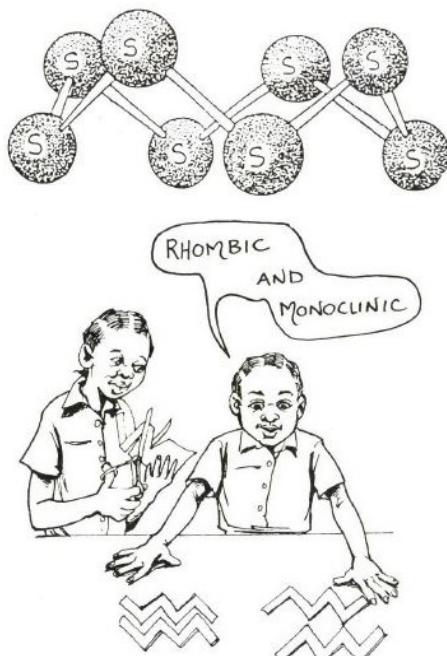
**Observations:** The gas turns a greenish-yellow colour.

**Theory:** The chlorine gas will bleach the flowers in the bottle. The bleaching action is due to the formation of hypochlorite ion, formed when chlorine dissolves in water:



### Sulphur

#### 4.1.2 Model of Sulphur $\text{S}_8$



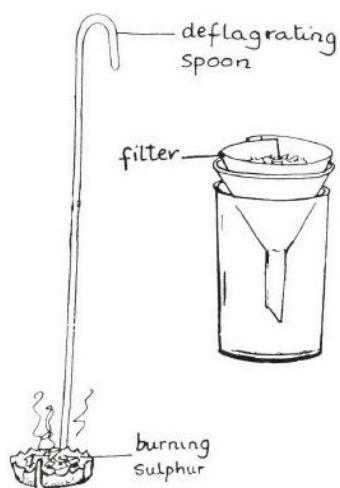
**Materials:** Fruits/modeling clay/ugali, toothpicks

**Procedure:** (a) Use berries, fruits, modeling clay spheres, balls of ugali, etc. for the sulphur atoms and sticks for the bonds. Construct the model as shown in the above diagram.

(b) The  $\text{S}_8$  molecule can be simplified as a crown shape which can be cut of cardboard. This can be used to show how the rings are packed in rhombic and monoclinic sulphur.

**Theory:** In rhombic sulphur the rings are interlocked as shown in the diagram above. This is a stable arrangement at room temperature. In monoclinic sulphur the rings are stacked (see diagram), this is a less stable arrangement explaining why monoclinic sulphur is the least stable allotrope at room temperature.

### 4.1.3 Monoclinic and Rhombic Sulphur



**Materials:** Powdered sulphur, bottle cap, candle, paper funnel, deflagrating spoon, bottle

**Procedure:** Put 3-4 spatulas of powdered sulphur into a bottle top. Heat very gently until it is just melted or plasticised. Pour the molten sulphur, which should be a clear yellow liquid, into a filter paper funnel. Leave to cool until a crust just forms on the surface of the sulphur. Break open the surface to expose the crystals underneath.

**Hazards:** Sulphur can catch fire to produce noxious fumes of sulphur dioxide.

**Observations:** Thin needle-like crystals of monoclinic sulphur are seen.

**Theory:** Sulphur has two allotropes, rhombic and monoclinic sulphur. Rhombic sulphur is the more stable form. The transition temperature between the two is 96°C. Since sulphur melts at 116°C, melting and allowing it to cool slightly exceeds the transition temperature and monoclinic sulphur is formed. It will revert to its more stable form, rhombic sulphur, in a few days time.

### 4.1.4 Reaction of Sulphur with Metals

**Materials:** Sulphur powder, copper wire, two spoons, **Heat Source**, scissors, match box

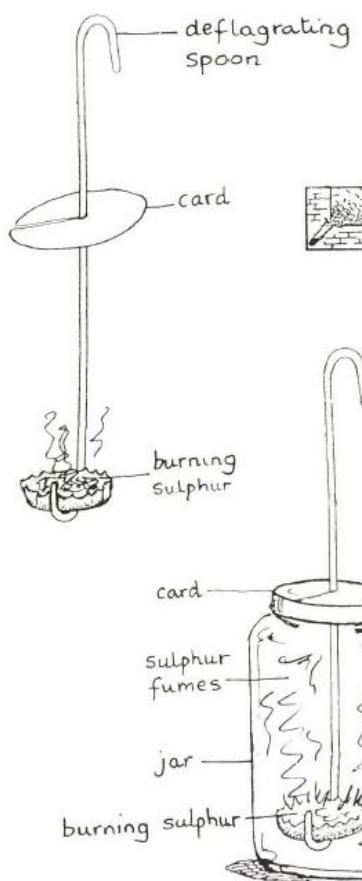
**Procedure:** Cut the copper wire into small pieces and place a few onto a spoon. Add a small amount of sulphur and mix (there should be more sulphur than copper). Heat the mixture over a flame until it turns black.

**Hazards:** This reaction produces sulphur dioxide, a poisonous gas. Perform outside or in a well-ventilated room and stand upwind.

**Theory:** Copper and sulphur react to form black copper (II) sulphide.

### Sulphur Dioxide

#### 4.1.5 Production of Sulphur Dioxide Gas



**Materials:** Cardboard/manila, deflagrating spoon, sulphur, bottle cap, jar, candle

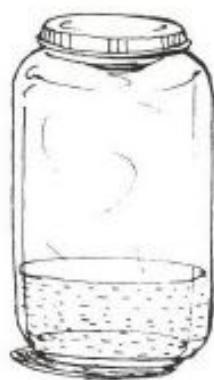
**Procedure:** Cut out a circle of stiff paper or cardboard and fix it onto the deflagrating spoon as shown in the diagram. Put 2-3 spatulas of sulphur into a bottle top and heat it in a flame until the sulphur catches fire. Immediately transfer the deflagrating spoon into a glass jar.

**Hazards:** Sulphur dioxide fumes are noxious, thus experiment should be done in a well ventilated room, near an open window or in a fume chamber.

**Observations:** The sulphur burns with a blue flame. Choking fumes of gas are produced.

**Theory:** Sulphur burns in air to form choking fumes of sulphur dioxide gas.

#### 4.1.6 Sulphuric Acid



**Materials:** Jar of sulphur dioxide gas, indicator, water

**Procedure:** Add water to the jar of sulphur dioxide gas and then add some indicator.

**Observations:** The gas dissolves and the solution is acidic (the universal indicator paper turns red).

**Theory:** Sulphur dioxide gas is very soluble in water. It forms an acidic solution called sulphuric (IV) acid.

**Applications:** This is the principle on which acid rain is formed.

#### 4.1.7 Bleaching Effects of Sulphur Dioxide



**Materials:** Jar of sulphur dioxide gas, newspaper

**Procedure:** To a jar of sulphur dioxide gas add a small piece of a newspaper. Firmly replace the lid of the jar.

**Hazards:** This reaction produces sulphur dioxide, a poisonous gas. Perform this reaction outside or in a well-ventilated room and stand upwind.

**Observations:** The newspaper is bleached.

**Theory:** Sulphur dioxide gas is a bleaching agent. This experiment works well when the sulphur dioxide gas is in high concentration.

#### Nitrogen

#### 4.1.8 Sources of Nitrogen

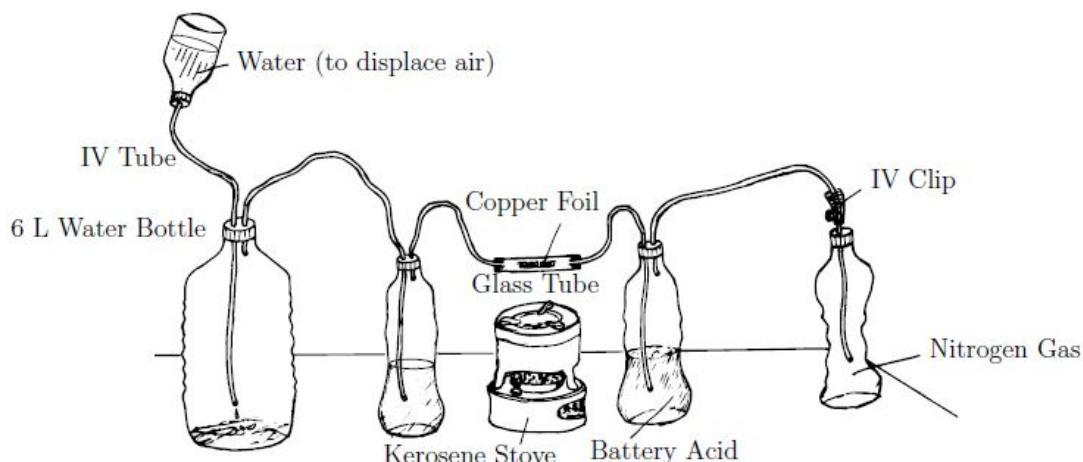


**Procedure:** Make a display (or prepare wall charts) of

- (a) food rich in proteins, e.g. fish, meat;
- (b) nitrogen fertilizers;
- (c) soldering stone ( $\text{NH}_4\text{Cl}$ ) as used by welders.

All plants contain a certain amount of protein, but some have a high concentration, particularly seeds like cow pea, groundnut and soya bean.

#### 4.1.9 Preparation of Nitrogen Gas



**Materials:** Large water bottle (6 L), caustic soda (sodium hydroxide), battery acid (5 M sulphuric acid), delivery tubes, **Heat Source**, piece of glass tube (about 20 cm), 4 empty water bottles (1 or 1.5 L), very thin copper wire

**Setup:** Poke 2 holes in each of 2 bottle tops; in the third top poke 1 hole. Connect the delivery tubes in these holes using pen tubes as junctions. Insert the copper turnings inside the glass tube. Prepare a 2 M solution of caustic soda in a 1 L bottle with two holes in the cap. Put sulphuric acid in the other bottle with two holes in the cap. Arrange the apparatus set up as in the figure making sure that the last bottle is squeezed (compressed) to remove air before collection.

**Procedure:** Add water through the funnel into the 6 L bottle so as to displace air present in the bottle. This is done after the copper turning starts to be red hot. Observe what happens in the two water bottles A and B as well as the changes of the red hot copper turning in the combustion tube. Observe the expansion of the bottle C as water fills the 6 L bottle. Collect the gas in the bottle C by tightening the delivery tube.

**Hazards:** Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) is corrosive to the skin and even in a dilute solution can blind. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Neutralize spills with citric acid solution. Concentrated sulphuric acid is corrosive to the skin and clothes. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Neutralize spills with bicarbonate of sodium (baking soda).

**Observations:** Copper turnings turn red hot when heated in the absence of air (i.e. before water is added to the 6 L bottle). After the addition of water to 6 L bottle, bubbles will be observed in both A and B and the red hot copper turnings turn black.

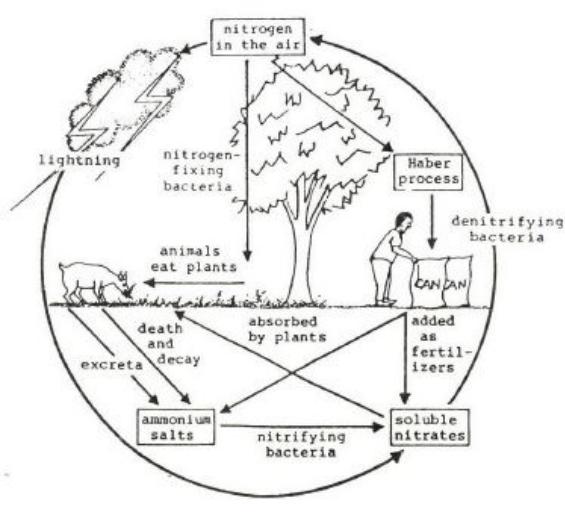
**Theory:** The collection bottle (C) should expand. The black colour of copper indicates oxidation of copper by atmospheric oxygen. Copper oxide is black. The bubbles observed in the bottles indicates the passage of air into the solution.

#### 4.1.10 Nitrogen Oxides from Lightning



**Theory:** During thunderstorms, lightning heats the air locally to a very high temperature. Thus nitrogen and oxygen from the air react to form nitrogen oxides. Some of these are converted by further reaction with rain water to nitric acid which in the soil forms nitrates. The latter are nitrogen fertilizers. Hence, if the pollutants from vehicles are absent, thunderstorms contribute to the fertilization of fields in this way.

#### 4.1.11 Nitrogen Circulation



**Materials:** Cards/manila, flip chart

**Procedure:** Prepare a wall chart of the natural nitrogen circulation or make cards of the various steps for students to place.

**Theory:** When proteins are broken down in the body, combined nitrogen containing compounds leave the body with the urine. These compounds are broken down further by bacteria to ammonia ( $\text{NH}_4$ ) which makes for example public places of urination smell very badly. Dead plant and animal tissues are similarly broken down. The ammonia formed is washed into the soil, where it is acted upon by different types of bacteria, eventually converting it into nitrates and ammonium salts which are needed by plants to produce proteins. Hence they are important fertilizers.

#### Ammonia

#### 4.1.12 Preparation of Ammonia Gas



**Materials:** Ammonium sulphate, caustic soda (sodium hydroxide), red litmus paper, match box, conc. HCl (optional), **Heat Source**, heating vessel

**Setup:** Prepare sodium hydroxide solution by dissolving approximately 1 spoon of sodium hydroxide in about 200 mL of water.

**Procedure:** Put one tea spoon of ammonium sulphate into a heating vessel. Add about 100 mL of sodium hydroxide solution to the ammonium sulphate and mix. Warm the mixture using a heat source. Test the gas evolved using moist red litmus paper. Record observations and note the smell of the gas.

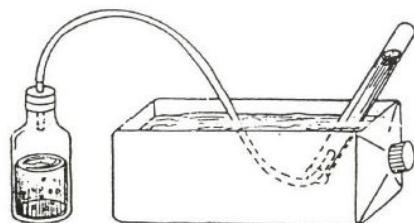
*Optional:* Bring a bottle containing conc. HCl acid, open it and allow fumes coming out of the bottle to react with the gas evolved from the gas generator.

**Observations:** Ammonia is a colourless gas with pungent smell (smell of urine), it turns red litmus blue. It also forms white fumes when it comes into contact with HCl vapors.

**Theory:** Ammonia gas is the only alkaline gas known, it reacts with hydrogen chloride gas to form thick/dense white fumes of ammonium chloride (This is the identification of the gas). It is highly soluble in water, which is why it can't be collected over water. It is less dense than air that is why it is collected by downward displacement of air (upward delivery).

## Carbon Dioxide

### 4.1.13 Production of Carbon Dioxide Gas

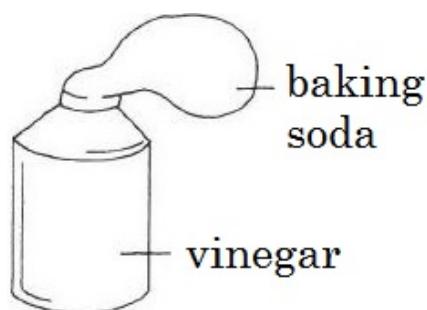


**Materials:** Plastic bottle, plastic tube, syringe, wood ash, dilute acid (e.g. citric acid)

**Procedure:** Assemble the apparatus as shown. Put a spoonful of ash into the bottle, add some dilute acid and close the bottle immediately. The syringe fills with gas.

**Theory:** The potassium carbonate in wood ash reacts with dilute acid to produce carbon dioxide gas.

### 4.1.14 CO<sub>2</sub> Balloon



**Materials:** Bottle, baking soda, vinegar, balloon

**Procedure:** Add a small amount of vinegar into a bottle. Fill a balloon with baking soda (bicarbonate of soda) and stretch the balloon over the mouth of the bottle. Lift the balloon to empty the contents into the bottle.

**Observations:** The balloon fills up with gas and may even explode!

**Theory:** The vinegar and baking soda combine to produce carbon dioxide gas, which gets collected in the balloon.

**Applications:** Employ the scientific method by varying the concentrations of vinegar and baking soda to see the effect on the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> gas released.

### 4.1.15 Test for Carbon Dioxide



**Materials:** Bottle, lime water, straw

**Procedure:** Pour some lime water into a bottle and blow (with a straw or a tube) bubbles of air into lime water. It will take some time until you can observe a change.

**Observations:** The lime water becomes cloudy, proving the presence of carbon dioxide in our exhaled air.

### 4.1.16 CO<sub>2</sub> in Soda

**Materials:** Unopened soda bottle

**Procedure:** (a) Open the soda bottle and watch how long it takes to stop releasing carbon dioxide (when bubbles stop forming). (b) Repeat but first shake the soda bottle before opening. (c) Repeat again but add salt after the initial carbon dioxide has escaped.

**Observations:** The soda in part (b) is sprayed out of the bottle at a high pressure. In part (c), adding salt helps to remove the remaining carbon dioxide in the soda.

**Theory:** When soda is bottled, CO<sub>2</sub> gas is pumped in at high pressure, and some of it dissolves in the soda. Removing the top allows this pressurized gas to escape, although some of the CO<sub>2</sub> remains attracted to water molecules. This is why carbonation remains for some time after opening.

Shaking the bottle causes previously escaped CO<sub>2</sub> to redissolve in the soda and form large bubbles which rush to the surface to escape the solution.

Water has a greater attraction to the salt molecules than the CO<sub>2</sub> molecules, so adding salt causes the water to release the CO<sub>2</sub> molecules and push them together. They combine and form larger bubbles, which rise to the surface of the soda.

## 4.2 Organic Chemistry

### Introduction to Organic Chemistry

#### 4.2.1 Showing the Presence of Carbon in Sugar

**Materials:** Metal spoon, sugar, candle

**Procedure:** Place the spoon above the flame of the candle.

**Hazards:** Be sure to use caution when using the flame as the spoon can get hot.

**Observations:** As the cap heats up it will heat the sugar. Heating the sugar will partially burn it before turning completely to carbon and carbon dioxide. This partial combustion is visible - as the sugar burns it turns brown and then black.

**Theory:** As sugar burns in air, it partially combusts, leaving behind carbon solid and other carbon compounds before changing into carbon dioxide. These carbon compounds have a brown color and the carbon solid compounds have a black color. As the sugar heats, it will combust until having a brown color, then to a black color. This black substance is solid carbon.

**Applications:** This is the same color as charcoal, which is another example of solid carbon. The browning of the sugar is called caramalization. As the sugar breaks down into smaller and different saccarides, they bring a very delicious taste. This is the process that is used very much in making different candies, especially toffees, brittles, and caramels. In fact, this is how many candies get their brown or dark color.

#### 4.2.2 Converting Soaps into Lipids or Fats

**Materials:** Powdered soap, battery acid, water, jam jar

**Procedure:** Take half of a spoon of powdered soap and dilute it to about 50 mL in a jam jar. Add about 2 mL of battery acid.

**Hazards:** Handle battery acid with care.

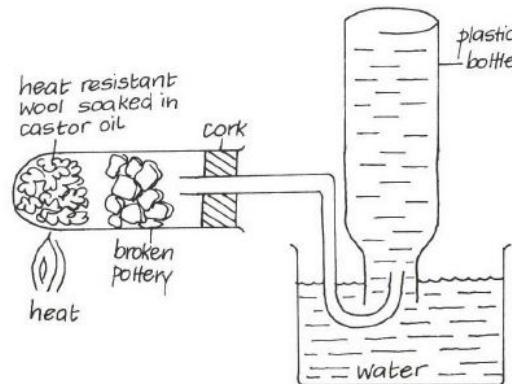
**Observations:** Bubbles of oil will form on the surface of the water.

**Theory:** Soaps are actually long chains of hydrocarbons with a protonated carboxylic acid group on the end. This protonated group allows soaps to cause oil and water to mix: it is both hydrophobic on one end and hydrophilic on the other. One end can dissolve in water

while the other ends dissolves in the oil layer. This allows soap to be soluble in both water and oil solutions.

**Applications:** This is why soaps are used to clean off grease, oil, and other organic solvents. The organic solvents are hydrophobic and the soap can dissolve them.

#### 4.2.3 Cracking Household Oil



**Materials:** Test tube/syringe, steel wool, two burners, oil, bottle, water

**Setup:** Take a narrow a test tube and place it at an angle. At the bottom, place some normal household oil. At the top, stuff in some steel wool so it does not move. Seal the tube with cork or a rubber stopper.

**Procedure:** Heat the steel wool until very hot. Then place a second burner under the oil so both the oil and the wool are being heated. After a minute or two, take a flame to the end of the tube.

**Hazards:** Handle flame with caution and be aware that gases produced are flammable.

**Observations:** The gases escaping the tube can sustain a flame.

**Theory:** *Cracking* is a process where long hydrocarbon chains are heated so they are broken into smaller chains of molecules. Household oil is a triglyceride: a compound that has a glycerin backbone that has 3 long hydrocarbon arms. These long hydrocarbons range between 15 and 30 carbons long. These hydrocarbon arms can be broken easily by heating them in the presence of a catalyst, iron wool in this case. As they break down into smaller hydrocarbons, they become more volatile and combust easily. The long hydrocarbons will break down into hydrocarbon chains of 3 to 8 carbons. These will burn in air supporting a flame at the end of the tube.

#### 4.2.4 Petroleum Products

**Materials:** syringe with needle, 3 jam jars, as many as possible of: petrol, diesel, car lubricants, greases, petroleum jelly, kerosene, asphalt, tar, butane from a lighter

**Setup:** Place some petrol, kerosene, diesel, and any other petroleum product in different jam jars. For butane use a syringe to remove the butane from a lighter. There is usually a small hole where a needle can be inserted to add more butane gas.

**Procedure:** Compare the different properties of each of these compounds.

**Hazards:** Many petroleum products are quite flammable. Additionally the butane of a lighter is under pressure.

**Questions:** How do the density, viscosity, volatility, and flammability of the petroleum products compare and contrast?

**Theory:** We use many petroleum products every day. Crude oil is a black thick mixture of different hydrocarbons. To get different petroleum products, the crude oil is cracked and distilled to separate compounds depending on the number of carbon atoms. Butane is an early distillate since it has 4 carbons it distills easily. Petrol is an 8 carbon distillate. Kerosene has 12 to 15 carbons. Diesel has 15 to 25 carbons. Petroleum jelly is not a small hydrocarbon, but rather very long chains of varying length that does not distill easily. It is one of the last products from distilling crude oil.

**Notes:** If you want to make some mock crude oil to show students, mix road tar with kerosene until you have a viscous liquid.

#### 4.2.5 Preparation of Soap

**Materials:** Sunflower oil, caustic soda (sodium hydroxide), distilled water, salt, bottle, filter papers, [Heat Source](#), beaker

**Setup:** Prepare a 1 M solution of sodium hydroxide and a concentrated salt water solution.

**Procedure:** Put about 25 mL of sunflower oil into an empty jar or bottle. Add about 100 mL of 1 M sodium hydroxide solution. Light the heat source and heat the mixture gently for 30 minutes so that the content mixes. Continue heating and stirring while adding distilled water from time to time until no more solids separate out. Allow the mixture to cool and then add brine (concentrated NaCl solution). Stir the mixture continuously for 5 minutes. Pour the solution into a fresh beaker and allow it to settle. The solution should solidify. Use a small piece of the solid soap to clean an oily piece of cloth.

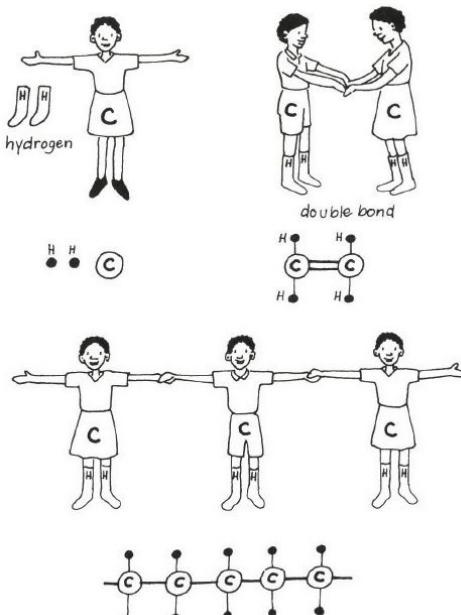
**Hazards:** Sodium hydroxide (caustic soda) is corrosive to the skin and even in a dilute solution can blind. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Neutralize spills with citric acid solution.

**Questions:** What is the chemical formula for soap formation? How could you prepare soap at home?

**Theory:** The soap is produced when sodium salt of fatty acid is produced from the reaction of vegetable oil with caustic soda. The soap cleans an oily piece of cloth.

**Applications:** The soap produced is sodium salt of fatty acid and is similar to the ordinary soap we buy in the market/shops.

#### 4.2.6 Acting Out Polymerisation



**Materials:** Socks, students

**Procedure:** Students act out polymerisation of molecules by having a shirt or skirt represent carbon atoms and socks representing hydrogen atoms. Arms represent single or double bonds.

**Theory:** The small molecule is ethene which polymerises to poly(ethene) - often called polythene.

### 4.2.7 Organic Chemistry Naming Game

**Materials:** Cardboard/styrofoam/any material which a toothpick can stick in, toothpicks, markers, deck of cards

**Setup:** Cut cardboard into small equal size pieces (at least 50) and label roughly a third of them "C", a few with "O", and the rest with "H". Write out on a piece of paper:

Diamond ("Kisu") - Alkane  
 Spade ("Jembe") - Alkene  
 Heart ("Moyo") - Alkyne  
 Club ("Maua") - Carboxylic Acid/Alcohol

K - Propyl Substituent  
 Q - Ethyl Substituent  
 J - Methyl Substituent

A - 1 Carbon atom  
 2 - 2 Carbon atoms  
 3 - 3 Carbon atoms  
 4 - 4 Carbon atoms  
 5 - 5 Carbon atoms  
 6 - 6 Carbon atom  
 7 - 7 Carbon atoms  
 8 - 8 Carbon atoms  
 9 - 9 Carbon atoms  
 10 - 10 Carbon atoms

**Procedure:** Draw a card from the deck and create a model of the organic molecule using the cardboard (Carbon, Hydrogen, and Oxygen atoms) and toothpicks (bonds) based on the card they receive. For example, a 3 of hearts would require the student to construct a three carbon alkyne molecule (propyne).

If a face card is drawn the student would draw another card and use the face card as a *substituent* to add on to the molecule. (Ex: A player draws a queen and then takes another card which turns out to be a 7 of spades. The student must make a model of a 7 carbon alkene molecule (heptene) and add a ethyl substituent (due to the queen). In all cases the student must name the compound - here ethylheptene.) Points can be attributed to the complexity of molecules created and competitions can be made.

**Applications:** Being able to understand the name and structure of organic chemicals is an important part of organic chemistry, and this game allows students to practice constructing structures and names for all the types of organic molecules that are learned in the O-level syllabus.

### Hydrocarbons

#### 4.2.8 Alkanes

**Materials:** Butane lighter, petrol, kerosene, Vaseline, candle wax, pin/syringe needle.

**Setup:** Place each of the items (butane lighter, petrol, kerosene, Vaseline, and candle wax) on a desk in this order. (Use the needle to press the release valve on the underside of the butane lighter.) Write approximate chemical formulas for each compound. Butane is  $C_4H_{10}$ ; petrol is  $C_8H_{18}$ , kerosene is about  $C_{12}H_{26}$ , Vaseline is about  $C_{20}H_{42}$ , and wax is about  $C_{25}H_{52}$ . Note that these are only approximate formulas, especially for the larger molecules.

**Procedure:** Observe the visible properties of each alkane sample. Comment on the states of matter of each. Rank them from smallest molecules to largest. Note the correlation between molecule size and state of matter.

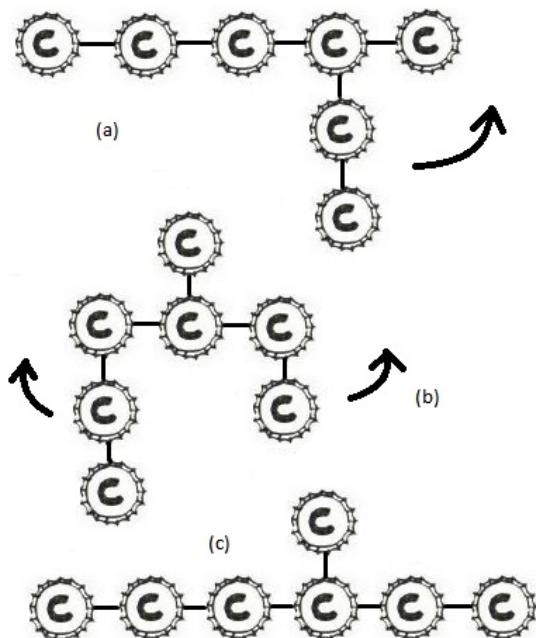
**Questions:** Which substances have the strongest attraction between molecules? Which have the weakest? What is the connection between attraction of molecules and boiling point/melting point? What is the connection between attraction of molecules and the size of hydrocarbon molecules? Why is butane a liquid inside the lighter and a gas outside?

**Observations:** Larger hydrocarbons tend to be solids while smaller hydrocarbons tend to be liquids. The smallest hydrocarbons (methane, ethane, propane, and butane) are gases at room temperature and atmospheric pressure.

**Theory:** The only forces of attraction between molecules of hydrocarbons are van der Waals forces or London dispersion forces. The strength of these forces increases with the size of the molecules. Therefore substances made from large hydrocarbon molecules (e.g. wax) have stronger intermolecular forces than those made from small hydrocarbon molecules (e.g. butane). The stronger the intermolecular forces, the greater thermal energy must be present to shake the molecules apart from each other, i.e. to cause melting and boiling.

**Applications:** Butane is a gas at room temperature and atmospheric pressure. Butane lighters hold the butane under pressure to force the molecules together to form a liquid. This allows for more efficient storage of the butane. When the valve on the lighter is pressed, butane can exit the lighter where it vapourizes under the reduced pressure.

#### 4.2.9 Parent Chains



**Materials:** Bottle caps, malleable wire (e.g. copper wire), tape

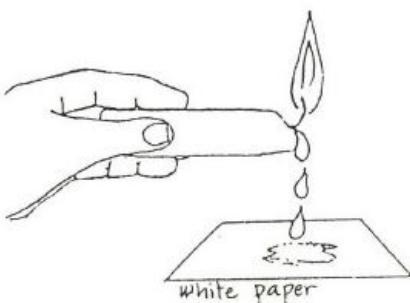
**Setup:** Tape bottle caps to a strip of wire as shown in a or b (at least 3 in a single line).

**Procedure:** Have students find and count the longest chain of bottle caps (carbon atoms) and write the name of the compound. Then bend the wire to show the actual longest chain (parent chain).

**Observations:** Many students assume that any horizontal chain (a or b) is the parent chain. This is not always the case. Images a, b, and c are the exact same organic molecule, but c shows the correct parent chain has 6 carbons.

**Theory:** The parent chain of hydrocarbons is determined by counting the longest continuous chain of carbons. This is the arrangement in which the locant (or sum of locants) is lowest. Students often forget that the parent chain is not always in a straight line.

#### 4.2.10 Candles as Hydrocarbons



**Materials:** Candle, paper

**Procedure:** Drop some liquid candle wax on a clean white piece of paper.

**Questions:** What happens to the paper? Why?

**Observations:** Candle wax produces a greasy spot on paper.

**Theory:** Candle wax is chemically related to grease fats and oils, it consists of long chain hydrocarbons.

## Alcohols

#### 4.2.11 Preparation of Ethanol by Fermentation of Sugar

**Materials:** Gas generator, spatula, yeast, sugar, lime water, test tube

**Procedure:** Put 10-20 mL of lime water in a test tube and put the open end of the delivery tube from the gas generator into this solution. Make a sugar solution (3 spoonfuls sugar, 100 mL water). Add about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoons of yeast and seal the bottle. Label the container and set it aside, checking daily for changes in the lime water.

**Observations:** When yeast is added to the sugar solution and left for some time, carbon dioxide is generated, which turns the lime water cloudy. The solution remaining in the bottle will have a faint smell of alcohol which shows the presence of ethanol.

**Theory:** Ethanol may be produced directly from petroleum, but for human consumption it is prepared by the fermentation of carbohydrates. Fermentation is the chemical breakdown of a substance by bacteria, yeasts, or other micro-organisms. Yeast breaks down sugar into alcohol and carbon dioxide gas.

**Applications:** Fermentation of starch or sugar produces many common alcoholic beverages, e.g. beer and wines.

#### 4.2.12 Reaction of Ethanol with Carboxylic Acids Oxygen

**Materials:** Colourless spirit, match box, soda cap with plastic removed, knife

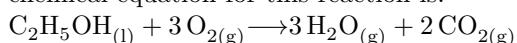
**Procedure:** Put approximately 1 mL of ethanol into a soda cap. Light a match and touch it to the ethanol.

**Hazards:** Ethanol is flammable and the flame is hot. This activity should not be done on or around plastic or cloth material. Advise students that the flame may be colourless, thus special care must be taken. An ethanol flame can be extinguished with water if needed.

**Questions:** What happens when alcohol is lit with a match? What is the balanced chemical equation for the combustion of ethanol?

**Observations:** When the lit match is brought to the flame the ethanol burns in the presence of oxygen. A colourless flame will form.

**Theory:** One property of alcohols is that they readily combust. Ethanol burns readily in air with an almost colourless flame, producing carbon dioxide and water. The balanced chemical equation for this reaction is:



#### 4.2.13 Reaction of Alcohol and Carboxylic Acid

**Materials:** Citric acid powder, methylated spirits, battery acid (5 M sulphuric acid), 2 beakers, tea spoon

**Setup:** Make a saturated solution of citric acid by mixing citric acid powder and clean water in a water bottle and shaking it until powder is dissolved.

**Procedure:** Put citric acid solution into one of the beakers. Take a small amount of the citric acid solution (about three water caps full) and pour it in the second beaker. Into the second beaker add about one cap full of battery acid and mix. To the mixture above add about three caps full of spirit and mix. Observe the smell.

**Hazards:** Battery acid is 5 M sulphuric acid. Concentrated sulphuric acid is corrosive to the skin and clothes. Avoid contact with skin and eyes. Neutralize spills with bicarbonate of sodium (baking soda).

**Questions:** Why was battery acid added to the citric acid solution? What smell did you detect in your experiment? Can you tell what the product is? What is the chemical reaction equation assuming that the spirit contains only ethanol?

**Observations:** Spirit reacts like ethanol and reacted with citric acid in the presence of acidic medium to produce a ester with fragrant smell.

**Theory:** One organic reaction of major importance is esterification. Esterification is the formation of an ester ( $\text{ROOR}'$ ) group through the reaction of an alcohol and a carboxylic acid. Many esters are volatile and their production can be observed by smell.

## 4.3 Soil Chemistry

### Soil Formation

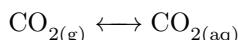
#### 4.3.1 Soil Formation

**Materials:** Dilute sulphuric acid, calcium carbonate rock (coral, limestone, marble) or egg shells, beaker

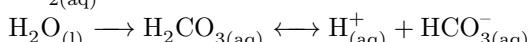
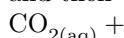
**Procedure:** Place carbonate rock or egg shells in a beaker. Add dilute sulphuric acid and observe.

**Observations:** Bubbles of carbon dioxide should be observed where acid touches the rock. This shows that the acid is chemically reacting with the rock. Over time, the surface of the rock should also look corroded, more evidence of chemical weathering.

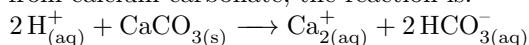
**Theory:** Soils are made by physical and chemical weathering of rocks. Chemical weathering is caused by the action of acids on carbonate rocks. These acids may be organic acids produced by soil organisms or carbonic acid from the dissolution of atmospheric carbon dioxide in water:



and then

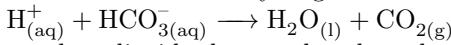


These acids react differently with different kinds of rocks. In the case of limestone, marble, coral, and other rocks made mostly from calcium carbonate, the reaction is:



Note that the result is a solution of calcium hydrogen carbonate. This is the source of hard water. Chemical weathering is a slow process. This activity speeds up the process by using dilute sulphuric acid so that students may more quickly see the result.

Because sulphuric acid is a strong acid, it will also react with the hydrogen carbonate:



The carbon dioxide thus produced can be observed as small bubbles forming on the surface of the rock. Note that in real chemical weathering, carbon dioxide is generally not produced, and instead the reaction stops with a solution of calcium hydrogen carbonate.

**Notes:** Rocks with more complicated chemical composition are also subject to chemical weathering.

#### 4.3.2 Cement Making and Erosion

**Materials:** Cement, sand, water, plastic water bottles, large plastic container

**Setup:** Add equal volumes of cement and sand to a large plastic container or wheelbarrow (the actual volume used is not important). Add water to make a paste and pour off into a plastic water bottle with the top cut off. This bottle acts as a mold for the cement. Then, add a second volume of sand to the large plastic container. Pour into a plastic water bottle. Add a third volume of sand, and then pour into a water bottle. Repeat this procedure until you have added 12 volumes of sand. Let the cement dry overnight and cut off the plastic water bottle. Label and keep each different sample of cement.

**Procedure:** Take the cement pieces and place them outside to bear the elements. Record their status each week.

**Theory:** The ratio of cement to sand decreases through each dilution. This means that the strength that holds the cement together decreases as the ratio of cement to sand increases. We can see this by leaving the different pieces of cement outside to erode. The strongest pieces will resist erosion the most. Those that have a 1:10 ratio of cement to sand will erode very easily.

**Applications:** This is why most cement blocks look like they are melting when it rains. The cement is too diluted to resist erosion effectively. Over the course of a year, the cement that has a 1:10 or 1:12 ratio will erode while the other pieces of cement will not erode.

### Soil Nutrients

#### 4.3.3 Leaching

**Materials:** Sand, solid food colouring, filter funnel, beaker, water

**Setup:** Prepare a mixture of sand and solid food colouring.

**Procedure:** Emphasize that the food colouring represents soluble minerals and soil nutrients. Place the sand mixture in a filter funnel placed over a beaker. Add water and observe the colour of the filtrate.

**Observations:** The filtrate takes on the colour of the sand that it passes through.

**Theory:** Chemicals present can often pass through the soil as water makes its way through the soil and end up in water sources.

## Soil Reaction

### 4.3.4 Measuring Soil pH

**Materials:** Various soil samples, rosella leaves, paper, bottles, water

**Setup:** Prepare an indicator solution or litmus paper by adding rosella leaves to hot water and dipping thin strips of paper into the solution.

**Procedure:** Put soil in a bottle. Add water to the soil and stir. Test the liquid with indicating paper. Record any changes.

**Theory:** Some soils are neutral in pH. Others are acidic or basic, depending on the composition of the soil. This activity is meant to demonstrate the existence of acidic and basic soils.

**Notes:** Traditionally, this activity is performed with universal indicator. However, exceptionally acidic or basic soils should be possible to detect using red and blue indicating paper, which may be locally made.

### 4.3.5 Raising Soil pH by Liming

**Materials:** An acidic soil (as determined from above activity), lime (cement or calcium hydroxide), water, indicator paper

**Procedure:** Add lime to an acidic soil sample. Test again with indicator paper.

**Theory:** The addition of lime will cause the soil to become more basic, and thus have a higher pH.

### 4.3.6 Lowering Soil pH with Ammonium Sulphate

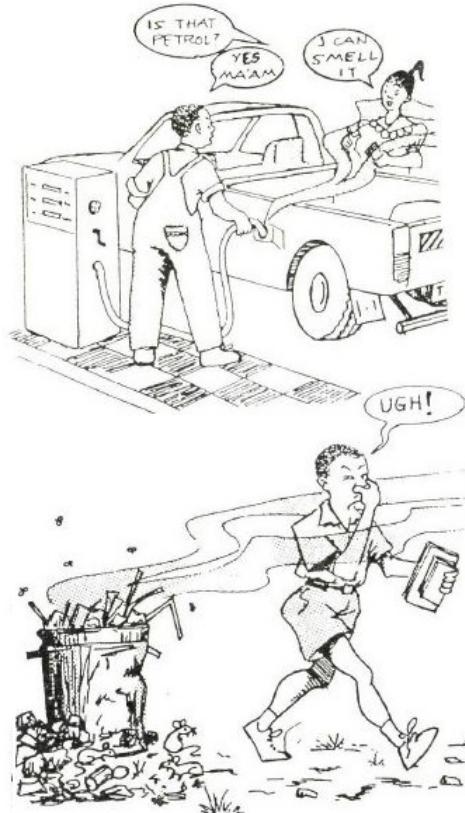
**Materials:** A basic soil (as determined from above activity), ammonium sulphate fertilizer, water, indicating paper

**Procedure:** Add ammonium sulphate to a basic soil sample from the soil pH activity. Test again with indicator paper.

**Theory:** The addition of ammonium phosphate will cause the soil to become more acidic, and thus have a lower pH.

## 4.4 Pollution

### 4.4.1 Pollution and Chemistry



**Procedure:** Divide the class into small groups. Think of some daily situations where pollution is seen in air, water or soil. Write them out on cards and give one to each group of students. One by one, have a group read the situation and then ask the class what kind of pollution is present and what suggestions they can give on how to reduce pollution in that situation.

## Terrestrial Pollution

### 4.4.2 Trash Journal

**Procedure:** Have each student record in a journal all of the trash that they make every day for 2 weeks. If possible, collect the trash and weigh it every day.

#### Observations:

**Theory:** Trash is a big problem in large towns and cities. Many manufactured goods come with a lot of waste material, which accumulates over time. Many waste items can be *recycled*, or reused for different purposes.

**Questions:** What are some methods for eliminating waste? What effect does burning trash have on the environment?

### 4.4.3 Biodegradable Waste

**Materials:** Shovel/jembe, Banana peel, plastic bottle, rubber bands, paper

**Procedure:** Dig several small holes and place a different item in each, covering them with dirt. Check back on the items after several weeks, months, and after a year.

**Observations:** The banana peel shrivels and degrades after a couple weeks, while the other items remain for many months or even years.

**Theory:** Banana peels are an example of organic waste. They are *biodegradable*, meaning that it breaks down in the environment. *Non-biodegradable* waste does not break down, it just piles up.

**Applications:** Do not throw plastic bottles out of the window on buses!!

### 4.4.4 Planting Trees



**Procedure:** Planting trees and protecting newly planted trees from animals is one way for community members to look out for the well-being of their environment and maintain and beautify their homes and schools.

**Theory:** Trees consume excess carbon dioxide, which is a harmful greenhouse gas that eats away at our ozone layer. They produce the oxygen that we breath and help to maintain a balanced ecosystem for other organisms.

**Applications:** Many individuals cut down trees for firewood but fail to replace them with newly planted trees. Over time this can lead to erosion and degradation of the land.

## Water Pollution

### 4.4.5 Water Purity Surveys



**Procedure:** Keeping a record of water purity and health in a local community is a great way to raise awareness about environmental protection. Students can test for hardness of water, pH, or other impurities and harmful bacteria present in water samples.

**Questions:** What are some other ways that you can get involved in protecting the environment?

### 4.4.6 Acid Rain



**Applications:** Pollution (e.g. from factories and cars) is carried in the wind and eventually lowers the pH of the water droplets in the air. Eventually the water returns to the ground as acid rain. The acid rain may fall a long way from the cause of the pollution - often in a different country.

## Air Pollution

### 4.4.7 Smog



**Observations:** On sunny days, nitrogen oxides react with other pollutants of the air to form smog. You may be able to observe smog on sunny days over large cities if you look from a tall building or a mountain.

**Theory:** Everywhere combustion at high temperature takes place in air, nitrogen from the air reacts with oxygen to form various nitrogen oxides. They are present in the exhaust from cars, lorries and buses, in the smoke of burning charcoal etc. Smog damages the lungs of people, especially children and old people, and the tissues of plants.

## Global Warming

### 4.4.8 Greenhouse Bucket

**Materials:** Buckets, black paint/shoe polish, sheet of glass, water

**Procedure:** Get two dark coloured buckets or paint them black on the outside. Fill them with water and place them out in the sun on a hot day. Place a sheet of glass over the top of one of the buckets. At the end of the day feel the water in the two buckets.

**Observations:** The bucket with the glass sheet covering will be warmer.

**Theory:** The glass allows light rays to enter through it, but reflects some of its energy back into the bucket as it tries to escape. Hence the light and heat are trapped inside the bucket and the water temperature increases.

**Applications:** When the sun heats the surface of the earth it sends back heat radiation into the atmosphere. Carbon dioxide and the other greenhouse gases form a blanket which does not allow the radiant heat to escape. Thus the temperature of the atmosphere is gradually increasing making the earth warmer.

## **Part II**

# **Materials and Equipment**

# Local Materials List

In order to gain a thorough understanding of science, students must be able to make a connection between classroom learning and the outside world. The following is a list of locally available materials which may be used to substitute conventional materials and apparatus for various activities. These materials have the following advantages:

- They are readily available in the village or a nearby town;
- They are cheaper than conventional materials;
- They may safely substitute the conventional materials without fear of losing accuracy or understanding;
- They help students to draw a connection between science education and the world around them.

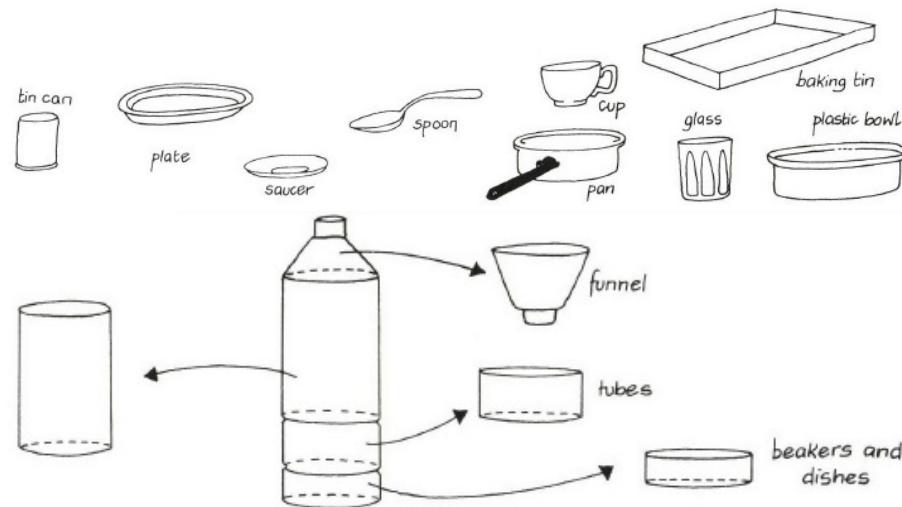
Imagination and innovativeness is encouraged on the part of the student and teacher to find other suitable local substitutions.

Below are common apparatus you might order from a laboratory supply company, and comments about which have good if not superior alternatives available in villages and towns. Given equal quality, it is generally better to use local materials, because these help connect classroom learning to students' lives.

The apparatus listed in this section are the following:

- |                       |                        |                              |
|-----------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Balance            | 17. Gloves             | 33. Slides and Cover Slips   |
| 2. Beakers            | 18. Goggles            | 34. Spatula                  |
| 3. Blowpipe           | 19. Heat Source        | 35. Stoppers                 |
| 4. Bulbs              | 20. Indicator          | 36. Stopwatches              |
| 5. Bunsen Burner      | 21. Iron Filings       | 37. Test Tubes               |
| 6. Burettes           | 22. Masses             | 38. Test Tube Brush          |
| 7. Crucible           | 23. Measuring Cylinder | 39. Test Tube Holder / Tongs |
| 8. Containers         | 24. Metre Rule         | 40. Test Tube Racks          |
| 9. Deflagrating Spoon | 25. Microscope         | 41. Tripod Stands            |
| 10. Delivery Tube     | 26. Mortar and Pestle  | 42. Volumetric "Glass"ware   |
| 11. Droppers          | 27. Nichrome Wire      | 43. Wash Bottle              |
| 12. Electrodes        | 28. Optical Pins       | 44. Water Bath               |
| 13. Electrode Holders | 29. Pipettes           | 45. Weights                  |
| 14. Filter Paper      | 30. Retort Stand       | 46. White Tiles              |
| 15. Flasks            | 31. Scale Pans         | 47. Wire                     |
| 16. Funnel            | 32. Scalpels           | 48. Wire Gauze               |

How many experiments can be carried out with everyday items?

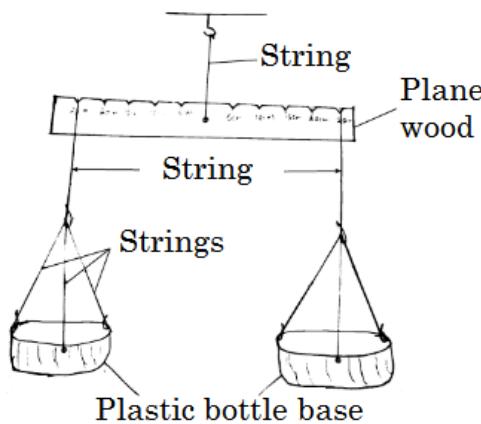
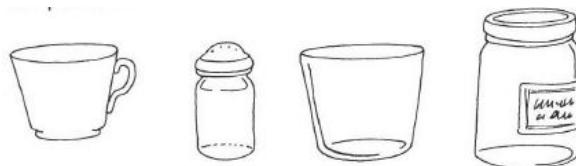


## A.1 Balance

**Use:** Measuring mass

**Materials:** Ruler or wooden bar 30 cm × 2 cm, nails, razor/knife, string/wire, pen, 2 Scale Pans

**Procedure:** Find the balancing point of the ruler/wood block and mark it with a pen. Use a heated nail to make a hole through this point. Make notches at 5 cm intervals on either side of the center hole using a razor/knife to suspend scale pans. Use a string/wire tied through the center hole to suspend the balance.



## A.2 Beakers

**Use:** To hold liquids, to heat liquids

**Materials:** Water bottles, jam jars, metal cans, knife/razor

**Procedure:** Take empty plastic bottles of different sizes. Cut them in half. The base can be used as a beaker. Jam jars made of glass, cut off metal cans and aluminum pots may be used when heating.

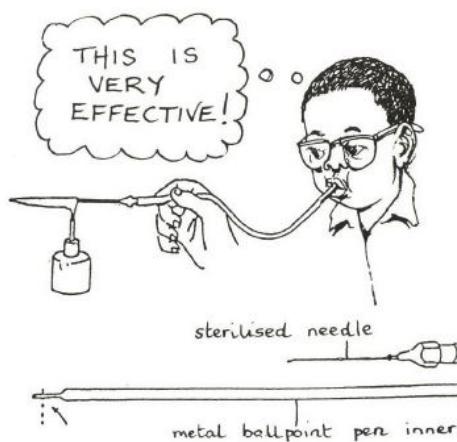
**Safety:** Glass containers may shatter if heated too much. Use standard laboratory equipment if extreme heating is needed.

## A.3 Blowpipe

**Use:** Increasing temperature of flames

**Materials:** Syringe needle, tube/straw/pen tube

**Procedure:** For sterilisation heat the needle in open fire for a longer time before using it. A drinking straw or a clean plastic tube can be used as a connection to the mouth.



## A.4 Bulbs

**Use:** Electrical circuits, diodes

**Materials:** Broken phone chargers, flashlights, other electronic devices

**Procedure:** Look for LEDs from broken items at hardware stores, local technicians, or small shops.

## A.5 Bunsen Burner

See Heat Source (p. 81).

## A.6 Burettes

**Use:** Titration

### A.6.1 Version 1

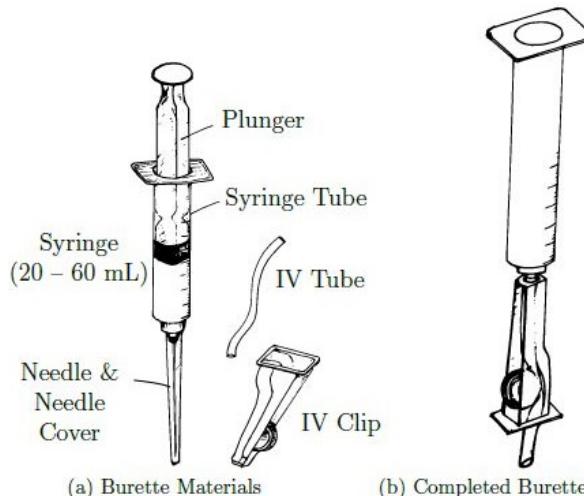
**Materials:** 10 mL syringes

**Procedure:** Use 10 mL disposable plastic syringes with 0.2 mL gradations. Students can estimate between the lines to at least 0.05 mL. If you must buy, buy plastic.

### A.6.2 Version 2

**Materials:** Syringe, IV giving set, super glue, knife

**Procedure:** Cut off the part of the IV tube with the flow control slider. Remove the plunger from the syringe and use superglue to attach the tube to the nozzle of the syringe.

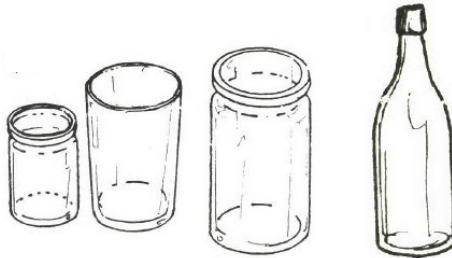


## A.7 Containers

**Use:** Measuring large volumes (100 mL – 2 L) of solution, titration, storage

**Materials:** Plastic water bottles, jars, tin cans

**Procedure:** Identify the volume of useful marks on the bottles and combine to measure accurate volumes.



## A.8 Crucible

**Use:** Heating substances at very high temperatures

**Materials:** 2 metal spoons, wire

**Procedure:** Place the material in one spoon and then wire 2 spoons together.

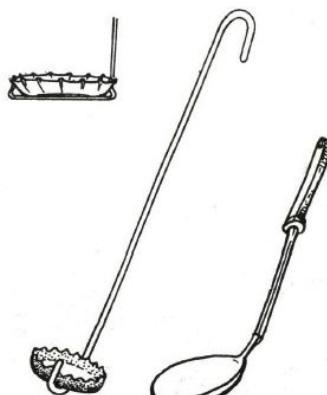


## A.9 Deflagrating Spoon

**Use:** For heating chemicals to observe melting, decomposition, or other changes on heating

**Materials:** Metal spoons, galvanised wire, soda bottle cap

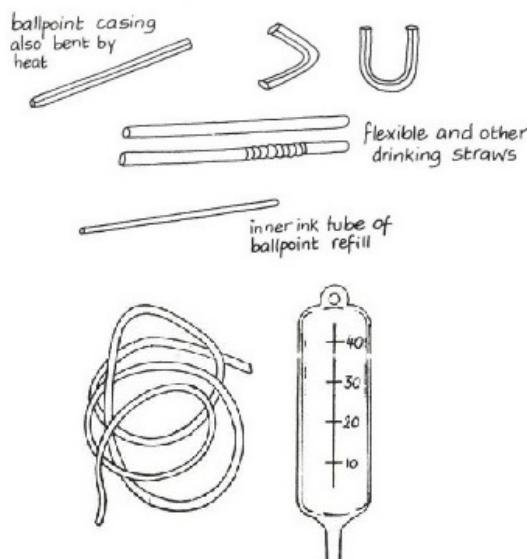
**Procedure:** Bend 30 cm of galvanised wire as shown. The wire should hold the bottle cap firmly.



## A.10 Delivery Tube

**Use:** Movement and collection of gases, capillary tubes, hydraulic press

**Materials:** Straws, pen tubes, IV tubing (giving sets) from a pharmacy, bicycle tubing



## A.11 Droppers

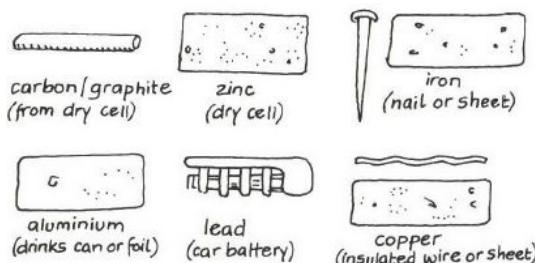
**Use:** To transfer small amounts of liquid

**Materials:** 2 mL syringes, straws

**Procedure:** Take a syringe. Remove the needle to use as a dropper. Or insert a straw into a liquid and then plug the free end with a finger to remove a small amount and use as a dropper.

## A.12 Electrodes

**Use:** Electrolysis



### A.12.1 Graphite

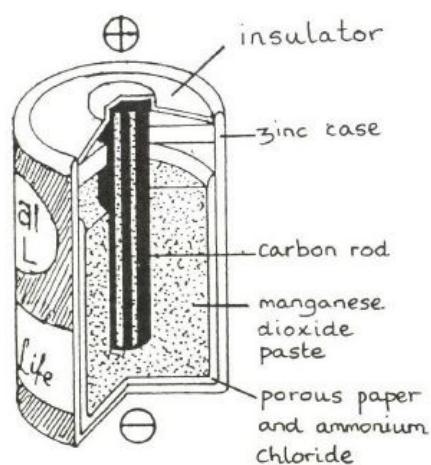
**Materials:** Old dry cell batteries

**Procedure:** Gently smash an old battery (D size) with a rock and pull out the electrode with pliers. DO NOT do this with alkaline batteries (most AA size) as they contain caustic liquids.

### A.12.2 Zinc

**Materials:** New dry cell batteries

**Procedure:** Carefully open up a NEW dry cell (D size) battery by peeling back the steel shell and slicing the plastic inside. You should find a cylindrical shell of zinc metal. Empty out the black powder inside (manganese dioxide mixed with zinc chloride and ammonium chloride; wash your hands after) and keep the graphite electrode for another day. The zinc shell should then be cut into strips, scraped clean, and boiled in water or washed with soap to remove any residual chemicals that might affect your experiment.



### A.12.3 Iron

**Materials:** Ungalvanized nails from a hardware store

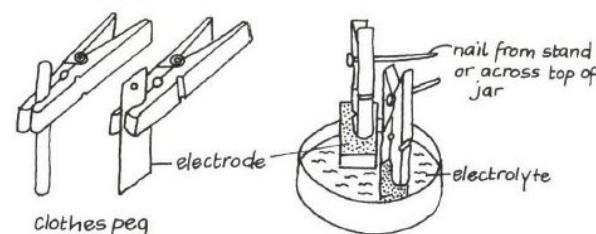
### A.12.4 Copper

**Materials:** Thick wire stripped of its insulation, also from a hardware store. Note that copper earth-ing rods have only a thin surface layer of copper these days.

## A.13 Electrode Holders

**Use:** Electrolysis

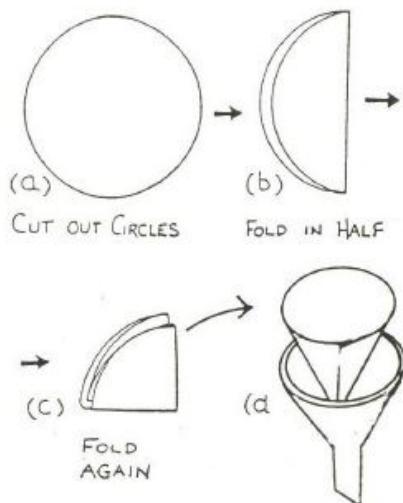
**Materials:** Clothes pins



## A.14 Filter Paper

**Use:** Filtration, separating mixtures, solutions

**Materials:** Cement bag paper, toilet paper, cloth



## A.15 Flasks

**Use:** Titrations, mixing solutions

**Materials:** Clean used liquor bottles, small water bottles

**Procedure:** When using these flasks for titrations, students must practice swirling enough that the solution remains well mixed.

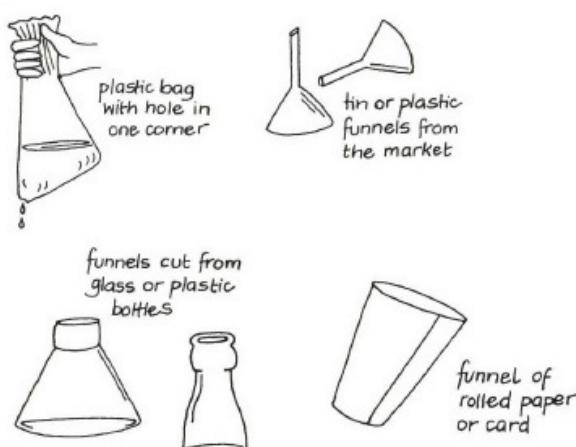
**Safety:** When heating glass liquor bottles, make sure the cap is off.

## A.16 Funnel

**Use:** To guide liquid or powder into a small opening

**Materials:** Empty water bottles, knife

**Procedure:** Take an empty water bottle and remove the cap. Cut it in half. The upper part of the bottle can be used as a funnel.



## A.17 Gloves

### A.17.1 Latex gloves

**Use:** First aid, when one has open cuts on hands, handling specimens. They are worthless to the chemist because they make the hands less agile and give the user a false sense of security.

**Safety:** Concentrated acids and organic chemicals burn straight through latex.

### A.17.2 Thick gloves

**Use:** For working with organic solvents. Remember that the most dangerous organic solvents (benzene, carbon tetrachloride) should never be used in a school, with or without gloves.

**Materials:** Thick rubber gloves from village industry supply companies and some hardware stores

**Safety:** In general, avoid using chemicals that would make you want to wear gloves.

## A.18 Goggles

**Use:** Handling concentrated acids

**Materials:** 1.5 L plastic water bottles, cardboard, sunglasses

**Procedure:** Cut a strip of plastic from a water bottle. Attach around your head with string or by using stiff cardboard as a frame. Goggles do not need to be impact resistant – they just need to stand between hazardous chemicals and your eyes.



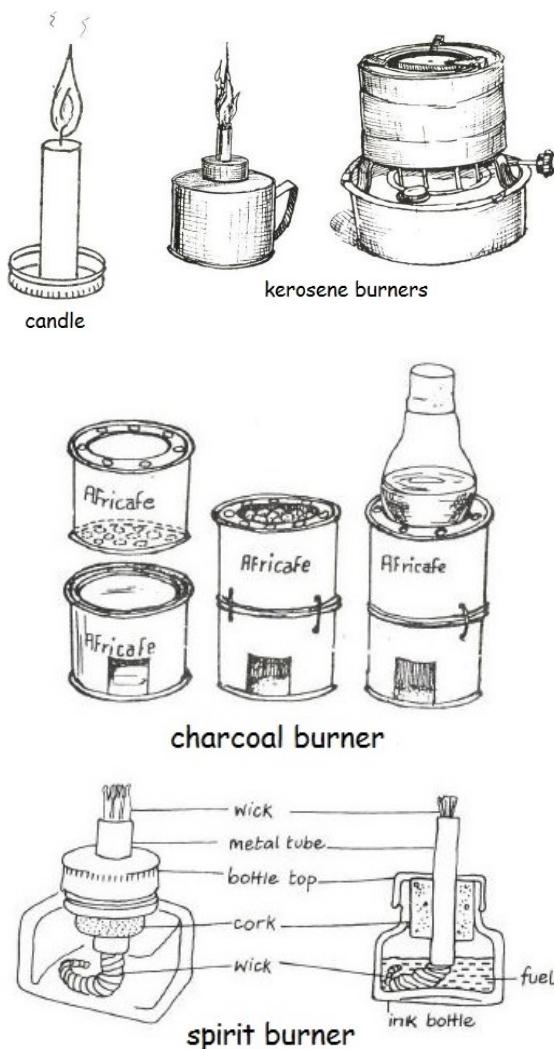
## A.19 Heat Source

**Use:** Heating substances

**Materials:** Candles, kerosene stoves, charcoal burners, Motopoa (alcohol infused heavy oil), butane lighters, spirit burners, metal can, bottle caps  
Motopoa provides the best compromise heat source - it is the easiest to use and safest heat source with locally available burners.

**Procedure:** Cut a metal can in half or use a bottle cap and add a small amount of Motopoa.

**Safety:** Always have available fire-fighting equipment that you know how to use. Remember that to put out a Bunsen burner safely, you need to turn off the gas.



### A.19.1 Heating Solutions

The ideal heat source has a high heat rate (Joules transferred per second), little smoke, and cheap fuel, i.e. Motopoa. A charcoal stove satisfies all of these but takes time to light and requires relatively frequent re-fueling. Kerosene stoves have excellent heat rates but are smoky.

### A.19.2 Heating Solids

The ideal heat source has a high temperature and no smoke, i.e. a Bunsen burner. For heating small objects for a short time (no more than 10-20 seconds), a butane lighter provides a very high temperature. Motopoa will provide a flame of satisfactory temperature for as long as necessary.

### A.19.3 Flame Tests

The ideal heat source has a high temperature and produces a non-luminous flame, i.e. a Bunsen burner. Motopoa is next best hot and non-luminous. Spirit burners produce a non-luminous flame at much greater cost, unless methylated spirits are used as fuel in which case the flame is much cooler. A butane lighter produces a very hot flame of sufficient size and time for flame tests although the non-luminous region is small. Kerosene stoves will work for some salts.

## A.20 Indicator

**Use:** Determine presence of acid or base, determine pH

**Materials:** Rosella leaves, hot water, bottle

**Procedure:** Place some coloured leaves into a bottle of warm water to extract the colour. Use a straw to drop onto solutions or prepare indicator paper by dipping thin strips into the coloured solution. Rosella turns red for acids and greenish blue for bases.



## A.21 Iron Filings

**Use:** To map magnetic fields

**Materials:** Steel wool / Iron wool used for cleaning pots

**Procedure:** Rub some steel wool between your thumb and fingers. The small pieces that fall are iron filings. Collect them in a matchbox or other container to use again.

## A.22 Masses

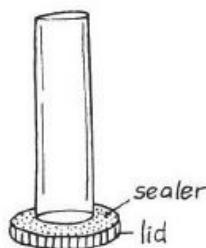
See [Weights](#) (p. 85).

## A.23 Measuring Cylinder

**Use:** Measuring volume

**Materials:** Plastic bottles of different sizes, syringes (10 mL - 50 mL), fluorescent light tubes, marker pen, ruler, bucket of water

**Procedure:** Using the syringe, transfer a known volume of water from the bucket to the empty bottle. Use the marker pen to mark the level of water on the bottle. Repeat for a range of volumes, using a ruler to complete the scale.



## A.24 Metre Rule

**Use:** Measuring length

**Materials:** Slabs of wood, ceiling board, permanent pen

**Procedure:** Buy one, take it and a permanent pen to a carpenter, and leave with twenty. Measure each new one to the original rule to prevent compounding errors.

## A.25 Microscope

See [Low Tech Microscopy](#) (p. 86).

## A.26 Mortar and Pestle

**Use:** To powder chemicals

**Materials:** 2 metal spoons, glass bottle

**Procedure:** Place chemicals between two nested metal spoons and grind down. Alternatively, crush chemicals on a sheet of paper by pressing on them with the bottom of a glass bottle.



## A.27 Nichrome Wire

For flame tests in chemistry, you can use a steel wire thoroughly scraped clean with iron or steel wool.

## A.28 Optical Pins

**Use:** Compass needles, making holes, dissection, mirror practicals

**Materials:** Office pins, sewing needles, needles from syringes

## A.29 Pipettes

**Use:** Transferring small amounts of liquid

**Materials:** Disposable plastic syringes (1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 25, 30 and 50 mL sizes)

**Procedure:** Suck first 1 mL of air and then put the syringe into the solution to suck up the liquid. There should be a flat meniscus under the layer of air.

**Safety:** Avoid standard pipettes to eliminate danger of mouth pipetting.

## A.30 Retort Stand

**Use:** To hold springs, burettes, pendulums or other objects

**Materials:** Filled 1.5 L water bottle, straight bamboo stick, tape, marker

**Procedure:** Tape the bamboo stick across the top of the water bottle so that it reaches out 20 cm to one side. Attach a small clamp if required or hang the object directly from the bamboo stick.

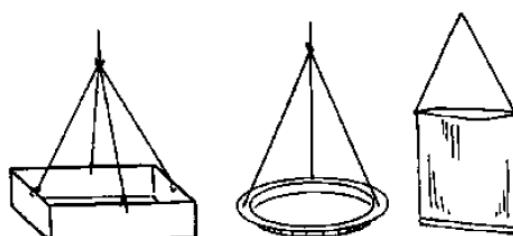
Alternatively, place a 1 cm piece of reinforcing rod in a paint can full of wet cement and let it dry. Then attach a boss head and clamp.

## A.31 Scale Pans

**Use:** Beam balance

**Materials:** Plastic bottle, cardboard box, string

**Procedure:** Cut off the bottom of a plastic bottle or cardboard box. Poke 3 or more holes near the top and tie string through each hole. Join strings and tie at the top to hang from a single point.



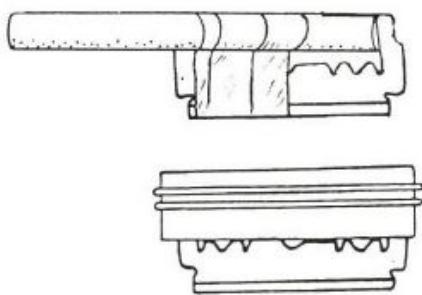
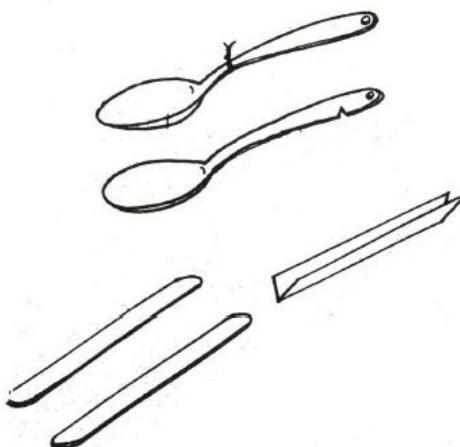
### A.32 Scalpels

**Use:** Dissection

**Materials:** Razor blades, tongue depressors, super glue

**Procedure:** Add a handle by gluing a tongue depressor on either side of the razor blade. Hold together with a rubber band until dry.

**Safety:** Dull blades should be discarded. Because students need to apply more pressure when using them, there is a greater risk of slipping and thus of cuts. Sharp tools are much safer.

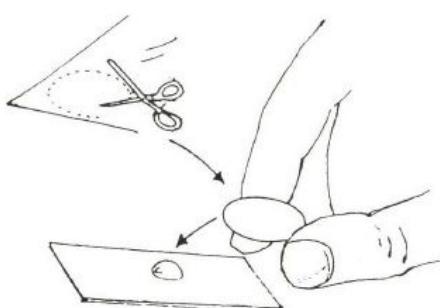


### A.33 Slides and Cover Slips

**Use:** Microscopy

**Materials:** Small pieces of glass, stiff plastic

**Procedure:** Small piece of glass provides a slide for mounting the specimen. Cover slips can be made from thin (but stiff) transparent plastic from display packing or bottles. Cut into small squares or circles.



### A.34 Spatula

**Use:** Transferring salts

**Materials:** Stainless steel spoons

**Procedure:** Use the handle end to remove salts from containers.

**Safety:** Clean all metal tools promptly after using with hydroxide, potassium manganate (VII), or manganese (IV) oxide. If the spoon corrodes, scrape with another spoon or steel wool.



### A.35 Stoppers

**Use:** To cover the mouth of a bottle, hold a capillary tube

**Materials:** Rubber from old tires or sandals, cork, plastic bottle cap, pen tube, super glue

**Procedure:** Cut a circular piece of rubber. If the stopper is being used to hold a capillary tube, a hole can be melted in a plastic cap or rubber stopper. Alternatively, super glue a pen tube to a plastic bottle cap and connect to rubber tubing.

### A.36 Stopwatches

**Use:** Simple pendulum, velocity, acceleration

**Materials:** Athletic and laboratory stopwatches from markets, digital wristwatches

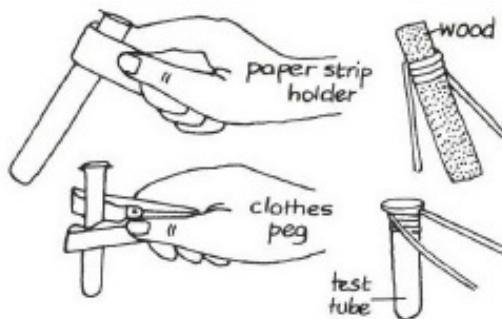
## A.37 Test Tubes

### A.37.1 Plastic Test Tubes

**Use:** To heat materials without a direct flame, to combine solutions

**Materials:** 10 mL syringes, matches

**Procedure:** Remove the needle and plunger from 10 mL syringes. Heat the end of the shell with a match until it melts. Press the molten end against a flat surface (like the end of the plunger) to fuse it closed. If the tube leaks, fuse it again. Test tubes made this way may be heated in a water bath up to boiling, hot enough for most experiments.



### A.37.2 For Thermal Decomposition

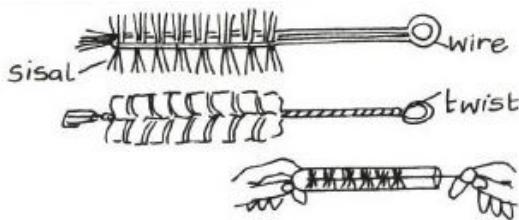
See [Deflagrating Spoon](#) (p. 78).

## A.38 Test Tube Brush

**Use:** Cleaning test tubes

**Materials:** Sisal, wire

**Procedure:** Twist the wire around the sisal as shown or put a little sand in the test tube as an abrasive.



## A.39 Test Tube Holder / Tongs

**Use:** To handle test tubes

**Materials:** Wooden clothespins, stiff wire, strip of paper or cloth

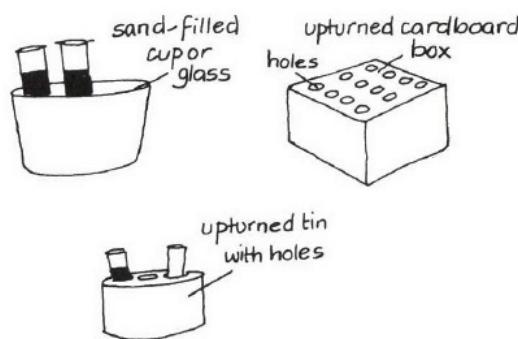
**Procedure:** Use clothespins or stiff wire for prolonged heating, or strips of paper or cloth for short-term heating.

## A.40 Test Tube Racks

**Use:** To hold test tubes vertically in place

**Materials:** Wire grid from local gardening store, styrofoam block, plastic bottle, sand, knife

**Procedure:** Fold a sheet of wire grid to make a table; punch holes in a piece of styrofoam; cut a plastic bottle in half and fill it with sand to increase stability. Or cut a plastic bottle along its vertical axis and rest the two cut edges on a flat surface. Cut holes into it for the test tubes.

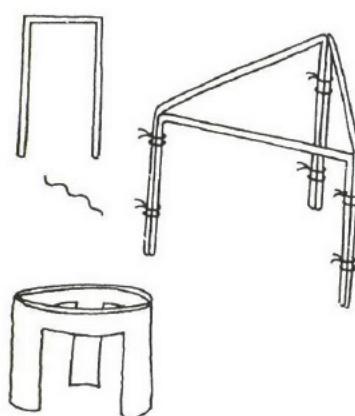


## A.41 Tripod Stands

**Use:** For supporting containers above heat sources, for elevating items

**Materials:** Stiff wire, metal rods, tin can

**Procedure:** Join bent pieces of thick wire together. Or cut the sides of a tin can to leave 3 legs.



## A.42 Volumetric "Glass"ware

See [Containers](#) (p. 78).

## A.43 Wash Bottle

**Use:** Washing hands after experiments

**Materials:** Water bottle, detergent, needle

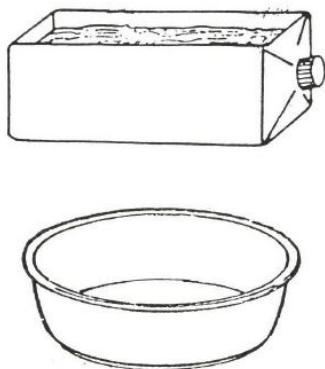
**Procedure:** Put a hole in the cap of a water bottle using a syringe needle.

## A.44 Water Bath

**Use:** To heat substances without using a direct flame

**Materials:** Heat Source, water, cooking pot

**Procedure:** Bring water to a boil in a small aluminum pot, then place the test tubes in the water to heat the substance inside the test tube. Prevent test tubes from falling over by clamping with clothespins or placing parallel wires across the container.



## A.45 Weights

### A.45.1 Crude Weights

**Use:** Concept of units, mass, weight

**Materials:** Batteries, coins, glass marbles from town, etc.

**Procedure:** Use objects of unknown mass to create new units and impart the concept of unit measure.

### A.45.2 Adding Weight in Known Intervals

**Use:** Hooke's Law practical

**Materials:** Water bottles, syringe

**Procedure:** Consider "zero added mass" the displacement of the pan with an empty water bottle. Then add masses of water in g equal to their volumes in mL (e.g. 50 mL = 50 g).

## A.45.3 Precise Weights

**Materials:** Plastic bags, sand, stones, 250 mL water bottles (all identical), tape, pen

**Procedure:** Use a beam balance and known masses at a market or nearby school to measure exact masses of bags of sand or stones. Use a marker pen to mark the masses on the bags.

If using water, use a beam balance from a nearby school to measure the exact mass of an empty water bottle. Add a volume of water in mL equal to the mass in g needed to reach a desired total mass. (The density of water is 1.0 g/mL.) This can be done precisely by using a plastic syringe. Label the bottle with tape and a pen.

## A.46 White Tiles

**Use:** Titration

**Materials:** White paper

**Procedure:** If students are using syringes as burettes, they can also hold their flask up against a white wall.

## A.47 Wire

### A.47.1 Connecting Wires

**Use:** Connecting circuit components, current electricity

**Materials:** Speaker wire, knife

**Procedure:** Speaker wire can be found at any hardware store or taken from old appliances - the pairs of colored wires braided together. Strip using a knife, scissors or a wire stripper.

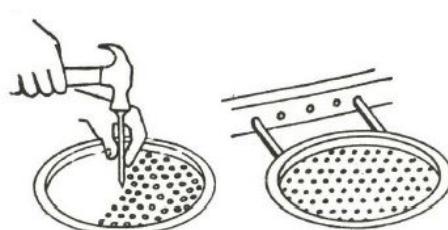


## A.48 Wire Gauze

**Use:** Placing objects over heat

**Materials:** Tin can lid

**Procedure:** Poke holes in a tin can lid.



# Low Tech Microscopy

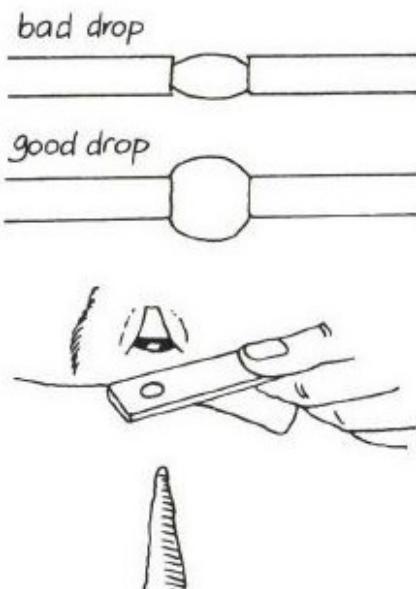
Microscopes are powerful tools for teaching biology, and many of their benefits are hard to replace with local fabrications. However, simple materials can be used to achieve sufficient magnification to greatly expands students' understanding of the very small. They may view up close the anatomy of insects and even see cells.

## B.1 Water as a lens

Water refracts light much the way glass does; a water drop with perfect curvature can make a powerful lens. A simple magnifier can be made by twisting a piece of wire around a nail and dipping the loop briefly into some water. Students can observe the optical properties of the trapped drop of water.

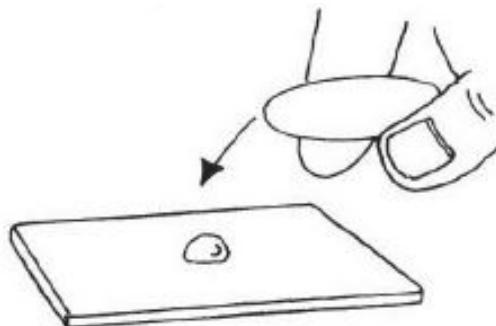
## B.2 Perfect circles

Better imaging can be had if the drop is more perfect in shape – the asymmetry of the wire twisting distorts the image. Search for a piece of thin but stiff plastic – water bottles work well. Cut a small piece of this plastic, perhaps  $1 \times 2$  centimeters. Near one end, make a hole, the more perfect the better. The best hole-cutting tool is a paper hole punch, available in many schools. With care, fine scissors or a pen knife will suffice; remove all burrs.



## B.3 Slides

A slide and even cover slip may be made from the same plastic water bottles, although being hydrophobic they will not have the same properties of glass when making wet mounts. Improvise a method for securing the punctured plastic over the slide; ideally the vertical spacing can be closely adjusted to focus.



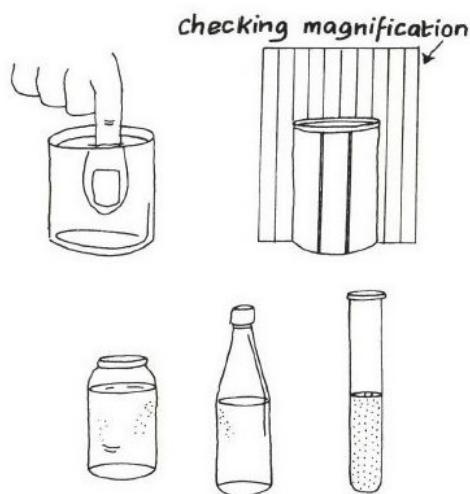
## B.4 Backlighting

On a bright day, there may not be any need for additional lighting, but in most classrooms the image will be too dim to be easily seen. The sun is a powerful light source, though not always convenient. Flashlights are generally inexpensive and available; many cell phones have one built in the end. To angle the light into the slide, find either a piece of mirror glass, wrinkle-free aluminum foil, the metalized side of a biscuit wrapper, etc.

Experiment with a variety of designs to see what works best given the materials available to your school. If you use a slide of onion cells stained with iodine solution , your students should be able to see cell walls and nuclei.

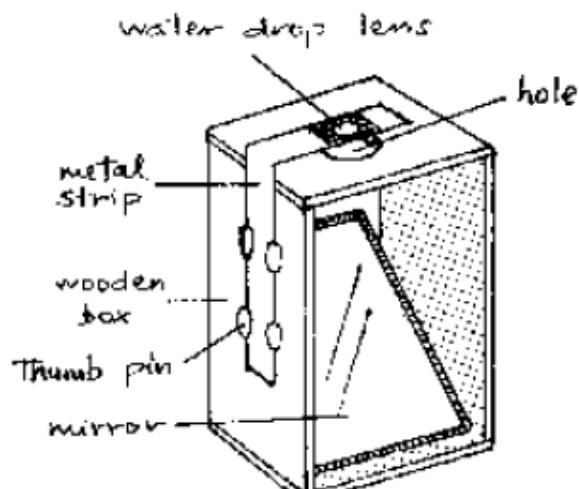
## B.5 Simple Microscopes and Magnifiers

### B.5.1 Clear-Container Magnifiers



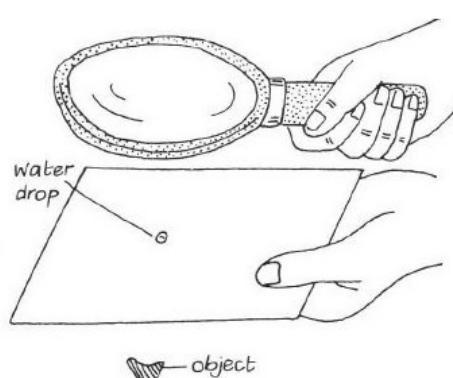
Any of these containers filled with water will make good magnifiers.

### B.5.2 Simple Microscope



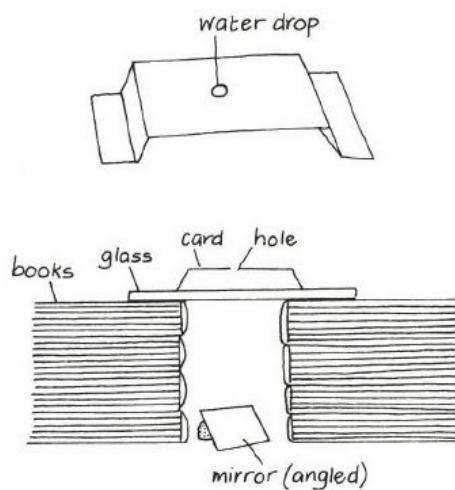
Construct a small wooden box from plywood as shown (or use a small cardboard carton such as a light bulb box). Make a round hole of 2 cm diameter, at the top. Fit a small mirror (glass or polished metal) in the box, angled to reflect light up through the hole. Make a small hole (about 6 mm) in a strip of metal. Remove the round top from a pen-torch bulb and secure it in the strip using adhesive tape. Carefully cut off the tape where it may cover the lens. Bend the strip, then fix it to the side of the box, so that it can be moved up and down. Drawing pins or nails could be used for this. The object is focused by moving this strip. Note the eye should be placed as near as possible to the lens when viewing.

### B.5.3 Simple Compound Microscope



- Using 2 lenses together allows much greater magnification.
- Use a hand lens to make a water drop into a more powerful magnifier.
- Try using a hand lens with a lens from a torch bulb to make another simple compound microscope.

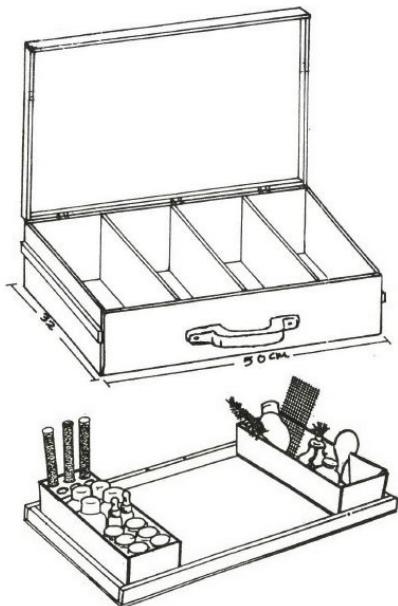
### B.5.4 Card Bridge Microscope



- Place a water drop in the card 'bridge'.
- Place this on a sheet of glass as shown.
- Place the object you are looking at on the glass. This arrangement is most suitable for thin items, e.g. sections of leaves.
- Experiment with the angle of the mirror so that light shines up through the specimen.
- Use this arrangement with a hand lens to produce a compound microscope.

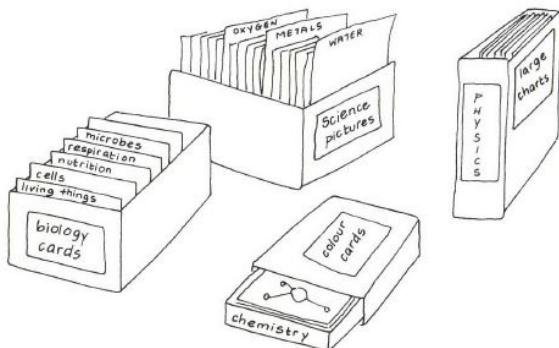
# Storage of Materials

## C.1 The Science Box



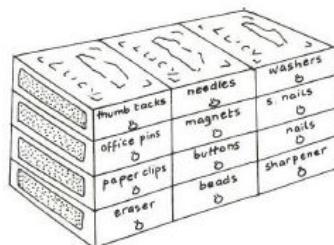
- Use a metal storage trunk to organize all of your new, locally-made science equipment.
- Metal or cardboard sheets can be used as dividers. Tape firmly in place.
- Use the lid as a science tray for safely and easily moving liquids and chemicals.

## C.2 Card and Picture Boxes



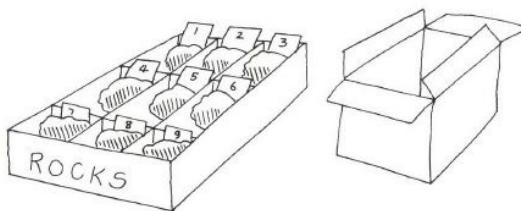
- Cards and pictures can be stored in all sorts of boxes. Store according to syllabus topic or alphabetically.
- Dividers and compartments can be made from cardboard.

## C.3 Matchbox Drawers



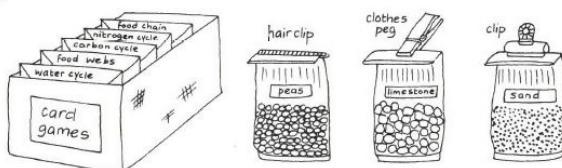
- Drawers to store small items can be made from matchboxes glued together as shown.
- Small pieces of string, wire or buttons can be used as handles.

## C.4 Dividing Boxes



- Cut down the sides of boxes for displays.
- Samples can be sorted, then displayed or stored in cardboard boxes as shown.
- The flaps from the top of the box may be cut off and used as dividers for the same box.

## C.5 Envelopes and Bags



- Envelopes and bags of different sizes can be used for storage. Clearly label all containers.

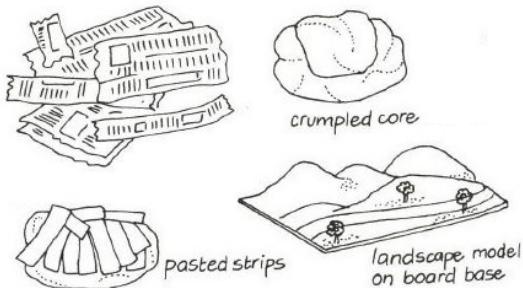
# Pastes and Modeling Materials

## D.1 Papier Mâché



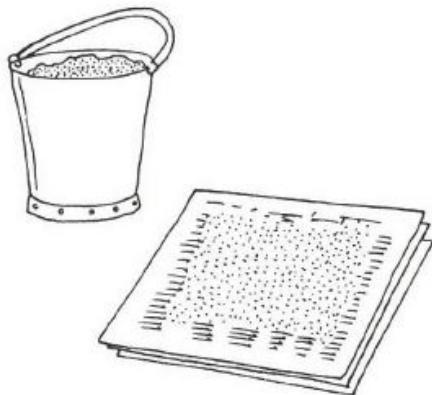
- Soak pieces of paper or card in water for half a day.
- Mash, grind, stir or pound the mix to a smooth fine pulp.
- Squeeze or press out excess water.
- Mix in a little flour paste and work the material into a sticky modeling consistency.

## D.2 Papier Mâché Layering



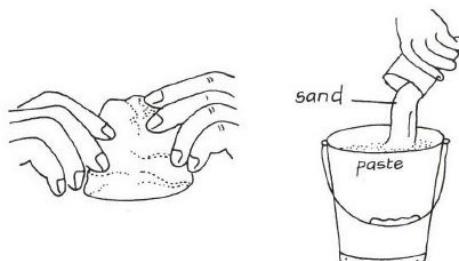
- Soak small pieces, or narrow strips, of newspaper in paste.
- Use crumpled newspaper as a core or skeleton for the model.
- Build up the model in layers of strips and pieces.
- After drying, sandpaper smooth and paint or varnish.

## D.3 Modeling Clay



- Dig out or collect your clay. Seek local advice on where to find suitable deposits.
- Add water and stir to a creamy consistency.
- Filter through cloth or a sieve.
- Allow the filtered material to settle.
- Decant excess water.
- Dry the filtered material on newspaper until it becomes a powder.
- Mix in glycerine to give a plastic texture.
- Knead well and add Vaseline to soften if necessary.
- Adding paste (see page 118) to the clay helps stop it cracking as it dries.

## D.4 Paste and Sand Cement



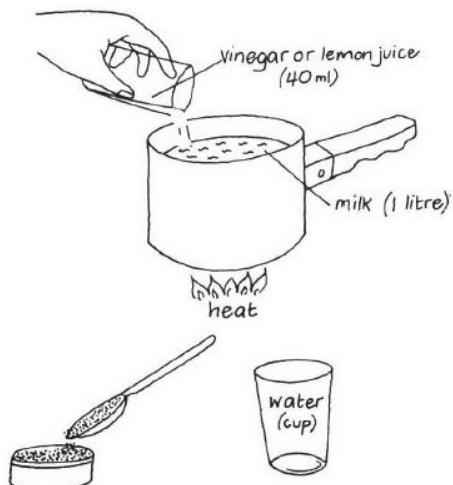
- Mix evenly together dry sand and flour paste or commercial glue.
- The wet cement moulds very easily and dries hard.

## D.5 Flour Paste



- Sift flour to remove lumps. Maize, wheat and cassava flours are all suitable.
- Mix the flour with water a little at a time to avoid lumps. It should be the consistency of thin cream.
- Cook the mixture gently until it thickens. Keep stirring to ensure the paste remains smooth and of even texture.
- Allow the paste to cool.
- Add insecticide to the paste if needed.
- Store in a clearly labeled container with a good lid, preferably in a cool place.
- Cold method paste is made by simply stirring sifted flour into water.

## D.6 Casein Glue



- Mix milk with vinegar or lemon juice. Add just enough vinegar or lemon juice to curdle the milk. The amounts will vary according to the type of milk used.
- Heat while stirring continuously. Soft lumps will form.
- Strain out the lumps using a cloth.
- Add a teaspoon of sodium hydrogen carbonate (bicarbonate of soda) to the lumps and mix with a little water to produce casein glue.

# Sources of Chemicals

The following is a list of most of the chemicals used in science laboratories. Noted for each of the chemicals are local sources, low cost industrial sources, methods to manufacture them at school, and/or functional alternatives. Also listed is information such as other names, common uses and hazards. Finally, descriptions are included of many of the compounds and confirmatory tests to assist with identification of unlabeled chemicals.

Chemicals are generally listed alphabetically by IUPAC name, although many compounds are also cross-listed by their common name (e.g. acetone (common) / propanone (IUPAC)).

## E.1 2-methylpropanol

Formula:  $(CH_3)_2CHCH_2OH$

Other names: isobutanol

Description: clear liquid less dense than water, alcohol smell similar to isopropanol (American rubbing alcohol)

Use: organic solvent for distribution (partition) experiments

Alternative: paint thinner or kerosene

Note: if ordering this chemical for the national exam, make sure that you get this chemical exactly.

Other compounds, e.g.  $CH_3CH_2CH_2(OH)CH_3$  (butan-2-ol) are sometimes sold as isobutanol but do not work the same way.

Source: released from an aqueous mixture of ammonium salt and hydroxide, for example calcium ammonium nitrate and sodium hydroxide. The gas can be trapped and dissolved in water.

Alternative: to distinguish between zinc and lead cations, add dilute sulfuric acid dropwise. The formation of a white precipitate – lead sulfate – confirms lead. Note: ammonia solution also is called ammonium hydroxide because ammonia undergoes autoionization to form ammonium and hydroxide ions. Just like water, there is an equilibrium concentration of the ions in an ammonia solution.

## E.2 Acetaldehyde

See [Ethanol](#).

## E.3 Acetic acid

See [Ethanoic acid](#).

## E.4 Acetone

See [Propanone](#).

## E.5 Alum

See [Potassium aluminum sulfate](#).

## E.6 Ammonia solution

Formula:  $NH_{3(aq)}$

Other names: ammonium hydroxide, ammonium hydroxide solution

Description: clear liquid less dense than water, completely miscible in water, strong biting smell similar to old urine

Use: qualitative analysis, various experiments

## E.7 Ammonium dichromate

Formula:  $(NH_3)_2Cr_2O_7$

Description: orange crystals soluble in water

Use: qualitative analysis (identification of sulfur dioxide gas)

Hazard: toxic, water pollutant

Alternative: make ammonium/potassium dichromate paper tests. Many can be made from a single gram of ammonium/potassium dichromate.

## E.8 Ammonium hydroxide solution

See [Ammonia solution](#).

## E.9 Ammonium carbonate, chloride, and nitrate

Use: qualitative analysis, preparation of ammonia

Alternative: to teach the identification and confirmation of ammonium salts and to prepare ammonia, use calcium ammonium nitrate.

## E.10 Ammonium sulphate

Formula:  $(NH_4)_2SO_4$  Other name: sulphate of ammonia

Description: white crystals Use: qualitative

analysis, preparation of ammonia  
Source: fertilizer

## E.11 Ammonium thiocyanate

Formula:  $\text{NH}_4\text{SCN}$

Use: confirmation of iron III in qualitative analysis  
Alternative: addition of sodium ethanoate should also produce a blood red solution; additionally, the test is unnecessary, as iron III is also the only chemical that will produce a red/brown precipitate with sodium hydroxide solution or sodium carbonate solution.

## E.12 Ascorbic acid

Other names: vitamin C

Formula:  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_7\text{O}_7$

Description: white powder, but pharmacy tablets often colored

Confirm: aqueous solution turns blue litmus red AND decolorizes dilute iodine or potassium permanganate solution

Use: all-purpose reducing agent, may substitute for sodium thiosulfate in redox titrations, removes iodine and permanganate stains from clothing

Source: pharmacies

## E.13 Barium chloride and barium nitrate

Use: confirmatory test for sulfate in qualitative analysis

Description: white crystals

Hazard: toxic, water pollutant

Alternative: lead nitrate will precipitate lead sulfate – results identical to when using barium

## E.14 Boric acid

Formula:  $\text{H}_3\text{BO}_3$

Description: white powder

Confirm: deep green flame color

Use: flame test demonstrations, preparation of sodium borate

Source: village industry supply shops, industrial chemical

## E.15 Benedict's solution

Description: bright blue solution

Confirm: gives orange precipitate when boiled with glucose

Use: food tests (test for reducing and non reducing

sugars)

Hazard: copper is poisonous

Manufacture: combine 5 spoons of sodium carbonate, 3 spoons of citric acid, and one spoon of copper sulfate in half a liter of water. Shake until everything is fully dissolved.

## E.16 Benzene

Formula:  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_6$

Description: colorless liquid insoluble in water

Use: all purpose organic solvent

Hazard: toxic, highly carcinogenic – see section on Dangerous Chemicals

Alternative: toluene is safer but for most solvent applications kerosene is equally effective and far less expensive.

## E.17 Butane

Formula:  $\text{C}_4\text{H}_{10}$

Source: the fluid in gas lighters is butane under pressure; liquid butane may be obtained at normal pressure with the help of a freezer

## E.18 Calcium ammonium nitrate

Other names: CAN

Description: small pellets, often with brown coating; endothermic heat of solvation

Use: low cost ammonium salt for teaching qualitative analysis; not as useful for teaching about nitrates as no red/brown gas released when heated. May be used for the preparation of ammonia and sodium nitrate.

Source: agricultural shops (fertilizer)

## E.19 Calcium carbonate

Formula:  $\text{CaCO}_3$

Description: white powder, insoluble in water Confirm: brick red flame test and acid causes effervescence

Use: demonstration of reactivity of carbonates, rates of reaction, qualitative analysis

Source: coral rock, sea shells, egg shells, limestone, marble, white residue from boiling water

Local manufacture: prepare a solution of aqueous calcium from either calcium ammonium nitrate or calcium hydroxide and add a solution of sodium carbonate.

Calcium carbonate will precipitate and may be filtered and dried.

## E.20 Calcium chloride and calcium nitrate

Description: highly deliquescent colorless crystals (poorly sealed containers often become thick liquid)

Use: qualitative analysis salts, drying agents

Alternatives (qualitative analysis): to practice identification of the calcium cation, use calcium sulfate; to practice identification of the chloride anion, use sodium chloride

Alternative (drying agent): sodium sulfate

## E.21 Calcium hydroxide

Formula:  $\text{Ca}(\text{OH})_2$

Other names: quicklime

Local name: *chokaa*

Description: white to off white powder, sparingly soluble in water

Use: dissolve in carbonate-free water to make lime-water

Source: building supply shops

Alternative: add a small amount of cement to water, let settle, and decant the clear solution; this is limewater.

## E.22 Calcium oxide

Formula:  $\text{CaO}$

Other names: lime

Use: reacts with water to form calcium hydroxide, thus forming limewater

Source: cement is mostly calcium oxide

## E.23 Calcium sulfate

Formula:  $\text{CaSO}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Other names: gypsum, plaster of Paris

Description: white powder, insoluble in cold water but soluble in hot water

Use: qualitative analysis

Source: building supply companies (as gypsum powder)

## E.24 Carbon (amorphous)

Source: soot, charcoal (impure)

## E.25 Carbon (graphite)

Use: element,

inert electrodes for chemistry and physics Source: dry cell battery electrodes, pencil cores (impure)

## E.26 Carbon dioxide

Preparation: react an aqueous weak acid (citric acid or ethanoic acid) with a soluble carbonate (sodium carbonate or sodium hydrogen carbonate)

## E.27 Carbon tetrachloride

See [Tetrachloromethane](#).

## E.28 Chloroform

See [Trichloromethane](#).

## E.29 Citric acid

Formula:  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_8\text{O}_7 = \text{CH}_2(\text{COOH})\text{COH}(\text{CHOOH})\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$

Local name: *unga wa ndimu*

Description: white crystals soluble in water, endothermic heat of solvation

Use: all purpose weak acid, volumetric analysis, melting demonstration, preparation of carbon dioxide, manufacture of Benedict's solution

Hazard: acid keep out of eyes!

Source: markets (sold as a spice), supermarkets

## E.30 Cobalt chloride

Use: test for water (hydrated cobalt chloride is pink)

Hazard: cobalt is poisonous

Alternative: white anhydrous copper sulfate turns blue when hydrated

## E.31 Copper

Use: element, preparation of copper sulfate, electrochemical reactions

Description: dull red/orange metal

Source: electrical wire – e.g. 2.5 mm gray insulated wire has 50 g of high purity copper per meter.

Note: modern earthing rods are only copper plated, and thus no longer a good source of copper

## E.32 Copper carbonate

Formula:  $\text{CuCO}_3$

Description: light blue powder

Confirm: blue/green flame test and dilute acid causes effervescence

Use: qualitative analysis, preparation is a demonstration of double decomposition

Hazard: powder may be inhaled; copper is poisonous

Local manufacture: prepare solutions of copper sulfate and sodium carbonate and mix them. Copper carbonate will precipitate and may be purified by filtration and drying.

### E.33 Copper chloride and copper nitrate

Description: blue-green (copper chloride) and deep blue (copper nitrate) salts

Use: qualitative analysis

Alternatives: for practice identifying the copper cation, use copper sulfate; for practice identifying the chloride anion, use sodium chloride

### E.34 Copper oxygen chloride

Formula:  $\text{Cu}_2\text{OCl}$

Other names: copper oxychloride, blue copper

Description: light blue powder

Hazard: powder may be inhaled; copper is poisonous

Source: agricultural shops (fungicide)

### E.35 Copper sulfate

Formula:  $\text{CuSO}_4$  (anhydrous),  $\text{CuSO}_4 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (pentahydrate)

Local name: *mlutululu*

Description: white (anhydrous) or blue (pentahydrate) crystals

Confirm: blue/green flame test and aqueous solution gives a white precipitate when mixed with lead or barium solution

Use: qualitative analysis, demonstration of the reactivity series, manufacture of Benedict's solution, test for water

Source: imported "local" medicine (manufactured in India).

Local manufacture: Electrolyze dilute (1-2 M) sulfuric acid with a copper anode and inert (e.g. graphite) cathode. Evaporate final solution until blue crystals of copper sulfate pentahydrate precipitate. To prepare anhydrous copper sulfate from copper sulfate pentahydrate, gently heat until the blue color has faded. Strong heating will irreversibly form black copper oxide. Store anhydrous copper sulfate in an air-tight container – otherwise atmospheric moisture will reform the pentahydrate.

### E.36 Dichloromethane

Formula:  $\text{CH}_2\text{Cl}_2$

Use: organic solvent for distribution (partition) experiments

Hazard: toxic by inhalation and ingestion (mouth pipetting) and by absorption through skin

Alternative: paint thinner or kerosene, although these are less dense than water

### E.37 Diethyl ether

Formula:  $(\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2)_2\text{O}$

Description: colorless liquid with smell similar to nail polish remover, evaporates quickly at room temperature

Use: organic solvent for distribution (partition) experiments, demonstration of low boiling point

Hazard: extremely flammable (boils near room temperature) and dangerous to inhale (unfortunate as it is very volatile!). It is of the utmost importance not to mouth pipette this chemical. Breathing ether was the first anesthesia, discontinued because it can be lethal.

Alternatives (distribution/partition): paint thinner or kerosene

Alternative (low boiling point): propanone

### E.38 Distilled water

Formula:  $\text{H}_2\text{O}$  and nothing else!

Local name: *maji baridi*

Use: qualitative analysis

Source: rain water.

Allow the first 15 minutes of rain to clean off the roof and then start collecting water. In schools in dry climates, collect as much rain water as possible during the rainy season. Use it only for qualitative analysis, preparation of qualitative analysis reagents, and manufacture of qualitative analysis salts.

Distilled water may also be purchased at most petrol stations and automotive shops.

Local manufacture: Heat water in a kettle and use a rubber hose to bring the steam through a container of cold water. Collect the condensate – pure water.

Alternative: river or tap water is almost always sufficient. Volumetric analysis never needs distilled water if you follow the instructions in Relative Standardization. Also, the tap water in many places is sufficient for even qualitative analysis.

### E.39 Ethanal

Formula:  $\text{CH}_3\text{CHO}$

Other names: acetaldehyde

Description: clear liquid with a foul smell

Local manufacture: oxidize ethanol with potassium permanganate

Note: the product is truly bad smelling and probably unhealthy to inhale. Include this entry only to show that rather than useful ethanoic acid, one can only get useless ethanal by chemical oxidation of ethanol; manufacture of ethanoic acid requires elevated temperature and high pressure vessels (or biology, as in the traditional manufacture of vinegar). The reaction at small scale (1 mL of ethanol used to decolorize dilute potassium permanganate) is useful when teaching oxidation of alcohols in organic chemistry.

## E.40 Ethandioic acid

Formula:  $\text{C}_2\text{H}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Other names: oxalic acid

Description: clear crystals

Use: volumetric analysis, primary standard for absolute standardization, reducing agent (oxidized to carbon dioxide)

Hazard: poisonous (also acidic)

Alternative: substitute citric acid or ethanoic acid for weak acid solutions and use ascorbic acid as a reducing agent.

## E.41 Ethanoic acid

Formula:  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOH}$

Other names: acetic acid

Description: clear liquid, completely miscible with water, strong vinegar smell

Use: all purpose weak acid, volumetric analysis

Source: 96% solution available from village industry supply shops, vinegar (5% solution) available in small shops and supermarkets

Safety for 96% ethanoic acid: HARMFUL VAPORS. Use outside or in a well ventilated space.

CORROSIVE ACID. Always have dilute weak base solution (e.g. sodium hydrogen carbonate) available to neutralize spills. Wear gloves and goggles when handling. Do not induce vomiting if ingested.

Alternative: for a weak acid, citric acid.

## E.42 Ethanol

Formula:  $\text{CH}_3\text{CH}_2\text{OH}$

Description: clear liquid, completely miscible with water, strong and sweet alcohol smell

Use: solvent, extraction of chlorophyll, removes permanent marker, preparation of POP solution, distillation, preservation of biological specimens

Hazard: ethanol itself is a mild poison, and methylated spirits and other industrial alcohol contain additional poisonous impurities (methanol) specifically so that no one drinks it

Sources: methylated spirits are 70% ethanol, hard

liquor is often 30-40%, village-brewed concentrated alcohol varies and may contain toxic quantities of methanol

Local manufacture: fermentation of sugar by yeast will produce up to a 15% solution – at that point, the yeast dies; distillation can in theory concentrate this to up to 95%, but this is hard with simple materials. Nevertheless, preparing ethanol of sufficient concentration to dissolve POP (50-60%) is quite possible.

Note: the color of most methylated spirits makes them undesirable for preparation of POP; hard liquor will suffice, but poorly because of its relatively low ethanol content. Colored methylated spirits can be run through a simple distillation apparatus to produce colorless spirits, as the pigment is less volatile than the ethanol. Of course, methanol and other poisons remain, but the clear solution works beautifully for dissolving POP.

Beware that ethanol vapors are flammable – a poorly constructed distillation setup may explode.

## E.43 Ethyl acetate

See [Ethyl ethanoate](#).

## E.44 Ethyl ethanoate

Formula:  $\text{CH}_3\text{COOCH}_2\text{CH}_3$

Other names: ethyl acetate

Description: clear liquid, immiscible with water, smells like nail polish remover

Use: solvent

Source: nail polish remover (mixture with propanone)

Alternative: paint remover, paint thinner, or methylated spirits

Preparation (demonstration of esterification): mix ethanol and ethanoic acid with a catalytic amount of strong acid or base; the decrease in ethanoic acid can be detected by titration and the ethyl ethanoate can be detected by smell.

## E.45 Gelatin

Source: may be extracted from chicken bones. This process is lengthy compared to purchasing gelatin powder from supermarkets. Be sure to purchase the non flavored varieties, usually in white boxes.

## E.46 Glucose

Formula:  $\text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6$

Description: white powder

Use: food tests (biology), reducing agent

Sources: small shops, pharmacies

Note: for food tests, the vitamins added to most glucose products will not cause a problem

## E.47 Gold

Source: a very thin coat of gold is plated onto the electrical contacts of cell phone batteries and mobile phone SIM cards.

## E.48 Graphite

See [Carbon \(graphite\)](#).

## E.49 Hydrochloric acid

Formula: HCl, 36.5 g/mol, density 1.18 g/cm<sup>3</sup> when concentrated (~12 M)

Other names: muriatic acid, pH decreasing compound for swimming pools

Description: clear liquid, may be discolored by contamination, distinct smell similar to chlorine although sometimes smells strongly of vinegar

Confirm: decolorizes weak solutions of potassium permanganate; white precipitate in silver nitrate solution and effervescence with (hydrogen) carbonates

Use: volumetric analysis, qualitative analysis

Source: swimming pool chemical suppliers (impure), industrial chemical (concentrated)

Safety: HARMFUL VAPORS. Use outside or in a well ventilated space. CORROSIVE ACID. Always have dilute weak base solution (e.g. sodium hydrogen carbonate) available to neutralize spills.

Wear gloves and goggles when handling. Extremely toxic hydrogen cyanide gas formed on mixing with cyanides or hexacyanoferrate compounds. Toxic chlorine gas formed on reaction with oxidizing agents, especially bleach. Do not induce vomiting if ingested.

Alternative (strong acid): sulfuric acid

Alternative (acid): citric acid

Alternative (qualitative analysis): for the test for carbonates, use dilute sulfuric acid; to dissolve insoluble carbonates, nitric acid may be used instead

## E.50 Hydrogen

Formula: H<sub>2</sub>

Confirm: “pop sound,” i.e. ignites with a bang; in an inverted test tube the rapid movement of air near the mouth creates a rapid, high pitch “whoosh” that gives the “pop” name

Preparation: combine dilute acid (e.g. battery acid) and a reactive metal (steel wool or zinc) in

a plastic water bottle. Attach a balloon to the top of the water bottle; being less dense than air, hydrogen will migrate up and slowly fill the balloon. Specific instructions for various alternatives are available in the Hands-On activities section. Before ignition, always move the balloon away from the container of acid.

## E.51 Hydrogen peroxide

Formula: H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>

Local name: *dawa ya vidonda*

Description: solutions are colorless liquids appearing exactly like water

Confirm: decolorizes potassium manganate (VII) solution in the absence of acid, neutral pH

Use: preparation of oxygen, general oxidizer and also may act as a reducing agent (e.g. with potassium permanganate)

Source: pharmacies sell 3% (10 volume) and 6% (20 volume) solutions as medicine for cleaning sores

Note: ‘20 volume’ means it will produce 20 times its liquid volume in oxygen gas.

## E.52 Hydrogen sulfide

Formula: H<sub>2</sub>S

Description: colorless gas with the smell of rotting eggs, ocean mud, and other places of anaerobic respiration

Safety: the gas is quite poisonous, although the body can detect extremely small amounts

Preparation: a sufficient quantity to smell may be prepared by igniting sulfur in a spoon and then quenching it in water.

## E.53 Indicator

Source: red flowers

Preparation: Crush flower petals in water. Some effective flowers include rosella, bougainvillea, and hibiscus. Test other flowers near your school.

Note: For bougainvillea and some other flowers, extract the pigment with ethanol or hard alcohol to get a better color. Color will change from pink (acidic) to colorless (basic). Rosella will change from red (acidic) to green (basic). For an indicator in redox titrations involving iodine, see starch solution.

## E.54 Iodine

Formula: I<sub>2(s)</sub>

Description: purple/black crystals

Local manufacture: add a little dilute sulfuric acid

to iodine solution from a pharmacy. Then add sodium hypochlorite solution (bleach) dropwise until the solution turns colorless with solid iodine resting on the bottom. The solid iodine can be removed by filtration or decantation. If pure iodine is necessary, the solid may be purified by sublimation. Note: this reaction produces poisonous chlorine gas. Therefore, produce iodine in a well ventilated area and stand upwind.

## E.55 Iodine solution

Composition:  $I_2 + KI$  dissolved in water and sometimes ethanol

Description: light brown solution

Confirm: turns starch blue or black

Use: food tests for detection of starch and fats

Source: pharmacies sell a weak iodine solution or tincture of iodine that is really about 50% by mass iodine. To prepare a useful solution for food tests, dilute this 10:1 in ordinary water.

Note: to use this solution for detection of fats, it must be made without ethanol, spirits, alcohol and the like. Either kind works for detection of starch.

## E.56 Iron

Use: element, demonstration of reactivity series, preparation of hydrogen, preparation of iron sulfide, preparation of iron sulfate

Source: for samples of the element and for use in electrochemical experiments, buy non-galvanized nails at a hardware store, or find them on the ground. You can tell they are not galvanized because they are starting to rust. Clean off the rust with steel wool prior to use. For samples of the element for preparation of other compounds, buy steel wool from small shops or supermarkets. This has a very high surface area / mass ratio, allowing for faster reactions.

## E.57 Iron sulfate

Description: iron (II) sulfate is light green. If exposed to air and especially water, iron (II) sulfate oxidizes to form yellow/red/brown iron (III) sulfate.

Use: oxidation-reduction experiments, qualitative analysis

Local manufacture: add excess steel wool to battery acid and leave overnight or until the acid is completely consumed. Beware! This reaction produces poisonous sulfur dioxide gas! Decant the solution of iron sulfate and leave to evaporate. Gentle heating is useful to speed up evaporation, but be careful to not heat too strongly once crystals form.

Note: the product may contain both iron II sulfate and iron III sulfate – you can guess based on the color. Such a mixture may be used to demonstrate confirmation of iron with potassium hexacyanoferrate (II/III), though not the specificity of one versus the other. To see if any iron II sulfate is present, add a solution of the product to a very dilute solution of potassium permanganate. If the permanganate is decolorized, iron (II) is present. If the solid has any yellow or red color, iron (III) is present.

## E.58 Iron sulfide

Use: preparation is a demonstration of chemical changes

Preparation: grind steel wool into a fine powder and mix with a similar quantity of sulfur. This is a mixture that may be physically sorted (e.g. with a magnet). Now, heat the mixture in a spoon over a flame. Iron sulfide will form. This is a chemical compound; the iron and sulfur can no longer be separated by physical means.

## E.59 Isobutanol

See [2-methylpropanol](#).

## E.60 Lead

Description: soft, dull gray metal

Hazard: toxic, especially its soluble compounds (e.g. lead acetate, chloride, and nitrate) and in powder form (e.g. lead carbonate)

Use: element

Source: electrodes from old car batteries; the old batteries themselves may be purchases from scrap dealers. Remember that the electrolyte may still be 5 M sulfuric acid and thus great care is required when opening these batteries to extract the electrodes. If you pay someone else to extract them, make sure they understand the hazards and use protective gear (gloves, goggles, etc.).

## E.61 Lead nitrate

Formula:  $Pb(NO_3)_2$

Use: qualitative analysis salt, alternative to barium chloride/nitrate when confirming sulfates

Hazard: toxic, water pollutant

Note: Yes, you could prepare this from lead metal and dilute nitric acid, and yes, this would be less expensive than buying lead nitrate. However, the process of dissolving a reactive metal in a highly corrosive acid to produce a toxic salt is anything

but safe. Lead nitrate is a good chemical to purchase. Note that lead does not react with concentrated nitric acid.

## E.62 Lead shot

Use: very dense material for building hydrometers, etc.

Source: shotgun shells from a firearm shop – ask them to open them for you

Note: most lead shot these days is actually a bismuth compound to reduce the environmental pollution of spraying lead everywhere. To test the lead shot, put in a ceramic or metal container and heat over a charcoal or kerosene stove. If the metal is lead, it will melt. Bismuth melts at a much higher temperature.

Alternative: If you just need a dense material for physics experiments, use iron and adjust the calibration. This is both safer and less expensive. If you need lead as a chemical reagent 1) see the entry for lead but 2) consider another demonstration with a less poisonous material.

## E.63 Lithium ions

Use: flame test demonstrations

Source: broken cell phone batteries from a phone repair shop

Extraction: Open the metal battery case by chipping or smashing it and then prying it open with pliers. There should be sealed packets inside. Stand upwind and cut these open; leave the contents to evaporate the noxious solvent for a few minutes. Do not breathe the fumes. After waiting ten minutes, remove the contents of the packets with pliers and unroll a strip of black covered silvery metal foil. Somewhere in here is some lithium ion. We used to think the silvery metal was lithium. That seems to be incorrect. Regardless, put some of the metal and the black coating into a really hot flame (Bunsen burner, gas lighter) and you should get the crimson flame color characteristic of lithium.

## E.64 Magnesium carbonate

Use: preparation is a demonstration of double displacement reactions as well as a qualitative analysis test

Local manufacture: Mix a solution of magnesium sulfate with a solution of sodium carbonate. Magnesium carbonate will precipitate and may be filtered and dried.

## E.65 Magnesium sulfate

Formula:  $\text{MgSO}_4 \cdot 7\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Other names: epsom salts

Description: white or clear crystals

Use: crystallization experiments, qualitative analysis test reagent (confirmation of hydrogen carbonate and carbonate), precipitation reactions

Source: livestock and veterinary supply shops sell Epsom salts to treat constipation in cattle

## E.66 Manganese (IV) oxide

Formula:  $\text{MnO}_2$

Other names: manganese dioxide

Description: black powder

Confirm: liberates oxygen from hydrogen peroxide

Use: preparation of oxygen, qualitative analysis (confirmation of chlorides)

Source: old dry cell batteries (radio batteries)

Extraction: smash a dry cell battery with a rock and scrape out the black powder. This is a mixture of manganese dioxide, zinc chloride, and ammonium chloride. This impure mixture is suitable for the preparation of oxygen. To purify manganese dioxide for use in qualitative analysis, boil the powder in water to dissolve away the chlorides. Filter the solution after boiling and repeat if the test gives false positives (e.g. confirms chlorides in samples that lack chlorides)

Note: Wash your hands with soap if you accidentally touch the powder. Do not get it on your clothes or into cuts on your hands.  $\text{MnO}_2$  causes metal to corrode; if you use a metal tool to scrap out the powder, be sure to clean it off afterwards. Better: use non-metal tools.

## E.67 Methane

Formula:  $\text{CH}_4$

Other names: natural gas

Use: optimal Bunsen burner fuel

Local manufacture: biogas systems – a school could in theory build one of these to supply gas for Bunsen burners

Alternative: compressed gas, propane, may be purchased in most towns; this is generally how schools operate Bunsen burners

## E.68 Millon's reagent

Composition: mercury metal dissolved in nitric acid

Description: clear liquid, very low pH, addition of excess sodium hydroxide to a small sample produces a yellow precipitate (of toxic mercury hydrox-

ide)

Use: identification of proteins in food tests

Hazard: highly toxic and very corrosive – never use  
Alternative: sodium hydroxide solution and copper sulfate solution in the Biuret test (1 M NaOH followed by 1% CuSO<sub>4</sub>)

## E.69 Naphthalene

Formula: C<sub>10</sub>H<sub>8</sub>

Description: solid at room temperature but melts in boiling water, distinct smell of moth balls

Use: melting point and heat of fusion experiments  
Source: moth balls are just solid naphthalene

Hazard: poison, possible carcinogen

Alternative: vaseline from small shops is another solid at room temperature that melts in boiling water

## E.70 Nestler's reagent

Description: colorless liquid, sometimes with a precipitate at the bottom; addition of excess sodium hydroxide to a small sample produces a yellow precipitate (toxic mercury hydroxide)

Use: detection of ammonia

Hazard: contains dissolved mercury – very toxic

Alternative: ammonia is readily detected by smell; a possible ammonia solution can be confirmed by adding it drop-wise to a solution of copper sulfate – a blue precipitate should form which then dissolves in excess ammonia to form a deep blue / purple solution.

## E.71 Nitric acid

Formula: HNO<sub>3</sub>

Description: clear liquid though may turn yellow over time, especially if left in the light

Use: various experiments, qualitative analysis, cleaning stubborn residues

Hazard: highly corrosive acid; dissolves essentially everything in the laboratory except glass, ceramics, and many kinds of plastic; may convert organic material into explosives

Alternative (strong acid): battery acid

Alternative (qualitative analysis): have students practice dealing with insoluble carbonates by using copper, iron, or zinc carbonates that will dissolve in dilute sulfuric acid

Alternative (cleaning glassware): make residues in metal spoons that can be cleaned easily by abrasion

## E.72 Organic solvents

Sources: kerosene, petrol, paint remover, paint thinner and the safest: cooking oil

## E.73 Oxygen

Confirm: oxygen gas relights a glowing splint, i.e. a piece of wood or paper glowing red / orange will flame when put in a container containing much more oxygen than the typical 20% in air

Preparation: combine hydrogen peroxide and manganese (IV) oxide in a plastic water bottle. Immediately crush the bottle to remove all other air and then cap the top. The bottle will re-inflate with oxygen gas.

## E.74 Phosphorus

Use: element

Source: the strike pads for matches contain impure red phosphorus

## E.75 Potassium aluminum sulfate

Formula: KFe(SO<sub>4</sub>)<sub>2</sub>

Other names: potassium alum

Local name: *shaabu*

Description: colorless to white crystals, sometimes very large, quite soluble in water

Use: coagulant useful in water treatment – a small amount will precipitate all of the dirt in a bucket of dirty water

Source: various shops, especially those specializing in tradition “Arab” of “Indian” products

## E.76 Potassium carbonate

Formula: K<sub>2</sub>CO<sub>3</sub>

Other names: potash

Description: white powder

Use: volumetric analysis

Safety: rather caustic, keep off of hands and definitely out of eyes!

Alternative: sodium carbonate – see ??.

## E.77 Potassium chromate

Formula: K<sub>2</sub>CrO<sub>4</sub>

Description: yellow crystals soluble in water

Hazard: poison, water pollutant

Use: demonstration of reversible reactions, qualitative analysis (confirmation of lead)

Alternative (reversible reactions): Dehydrate hydrated copper (II) sulfate by heating and then rehydrate it by adding drops of water

Alternative (confirmation of lead): Confirm lead by the addition of dilute sulfuric acid – white lead sulfate precipitates

## E.78 Potassium dichromate

Formula:  $K_2Cr_2O_7$

Description: orange crystals soluble in water

Use: demonstration of chemical equilibrium, qualitative analysis (identification of sulfur dioxide gas)

Hazard: toxic, water pollutant

Alternative: make ammonium / potassium dichromate paper tests. Many can be made from a single gram of ammonium/potassium dichromate.

## E.79 Potassium hexacyanoferate (II)

Formula:  $K_4Fe(CN)_6$

Other name: potassium ferrocyanide

Description: pale yellow salt

Use: confirmatory tests in qualitative analysis (forms an intensely blue precipitate with iron (III) ions, a red-brown precipitate with copper, and a blue-white precipitate with zinc)

Alternative (confirmation of iron (III) ions): see possibilities listed with ammonium thiocyanate

Alternative (confirmation of copper): blue/green flame test, blue precipitate on addition of sodium hydroxide or sodium carbonate solution

## E.80 Potassium hexacyanoferate (III)

Formula:  $K_3Fe(CN)_6$

Other name: Potassium ferricyanide

Description: yellow / orange salt

Use: confirmatory tests in qualitative analysis (makes an intense blue precipitate in the presence of iron (II) ions)

Alternative: iron (II) ions will also instantly decolorize a weak, acidic solution of potassium manganate (VII)

## E.81 Potassium hydroxide

Formula: KOH

Description: white crystals, deliquescent (poorly sealed containers may be just viscous water)

Use: volumetric analysis

Hazard: corrodes metal, burns skin, and can blind

if it gets in eyes

Alternative: sodium hydroxide – see ??.

## E.82 Potassium iodide

Formula: KI

Description: white crystals very similar in appearance to common salt, endothermic heat of solvation

Confirm: addition of weak potassium permanganate or bleach solution causes a clear KI solution to turn yellow/brown due to the formation of  $I_2$  (which then reacts with  $I^-$  to form soluble  $I_3^-$ )  
Use: preparation of iodine solution for food tests in biology, preparation of iodine solutions for redox titrations, confirmatory test for lead in qualitative analysis

Local manufacture: Heat a pharmacy iodine tincture strongly until only clear crystals remain. In this process, the  $I_2$  will sublime – placing a cold dish above the iodine solution should cause most of the iodine to deposit as solid purple crystals. Note that the iodine vapors are harmful to inhale. If you need KI for a solution that may contain impurities, add ascorbic acid solution to dilute iodine tincture until the solution exactly decolorized.

Alternative (food tests): see [Iodine solution](#)

Alternative (redox titrations): often you can also use iodine solution for this; just calibrate the dilution of pharmacy tincture and the other reagents to create a useful titration

Alternative (qualitative analysis): confirm lead by the addition of dilute sulfuric acid – white lead sulfate precipitates

## E.83 Potassium manganate (VII)

Formula:  $KMnO_4$

Other names: potassium permanganate, permanganate

Description: purple/black crystals, sometimes with a yellow/brown glint, very soluble in water – a few crystals will create a strongly purple colored solution

Hazard: powerful oxidizing agent – may react violently with various compounds; solutions stain clothing (remove stains with ascorbic acid solution); crystals and concentrated solution discolor skin (the effect subsides after a few hours, but it is better to not touch the chemical!)

Use: strong oxidizer, self-indicating redox titrations, identification of various unknown compounds, diffusion experiments

Source: imported “local” medicine. Also sold in very small quantities in many pharmacies. May be available in larger quantities from hospitals.

Alternative (oxidizer): bleach (sodium hypochlorite), hydrogen peroxide  
 Alternative (diffusion experiments): solid or liquid food coloring, available in markets and small shops

## E.84 Potassium thiocyanate

Formula: KSCN

Use: confirmation of iron (III) ions in qualitative analysis

Alternative: addition of sodium ethanoate should also produce a blood red solution; additionally, the test is unnecessary, as iron (III) ions is also the only chemical that will produce a red/brown precipitate with sodium hydroxide solution or sodium carbonate solution

## E.85 Propanone

Formula:  $\text{H}_3\text{CCOCH}_3$

Other names: acetone

Description: clear liquid miscible in water, smells like nail polish remover, quickly evaporates

Use: all-purpose lab solvent, iodoform reaction (kinetics, organic chemistry)

Hazard: highly flammable

Source: nail polish remover (mixture with ethyl ethanoate)

Alternative (volatile polar solvent): ethanol, including methylated spirits

## E.86 Silicon

Use: element

Source: fragments of broken solar panels; the cells are in part doped silicon

## E.87 Silicon dioxide

Description: clear solid

Source: quartz rock, quartz sand, glass

## E.88 Silver nitrate

Formula:  $\text{AgNO}_3$

Description: white crystals, turn black if exposed to light (hence, the use of silver halides in photography)

Confirm: silvery-white precipitate formed with chlorides

Use: confirmatory test for chlorides in qualitative analysis

Hazard: poison, water pollutant

Alternative: heat sample together with a dilute solution of acidified potassium manganate (VII) – decolorization confirms chlorides – see ??

## E.89 Sodium

Description: very soft metal (cuts with a knife) with a silvery color usually obscured by a dull oxide; always stored under oil

Use: demonstration of reactive metals (add to water)

Hazard: reacts with air and violently with water. May cause fire.

## E.90 Sodium acetate

See [Sodium ethanoate](#).

## E.91 Sodium carbonate

Formula:  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3 \cdot 10\text{H}_2\text{O}$  (hydrated),  $\text{Na}_2\text{CO}_3$  (anhydrous)

Other names: soda ash, washing soda

Description: white powder completely soluble in water

Use: all-purpose cheap base, volumetric analysis, qualitative analysis, manufacture of other carbonates

Safety: rather caustic, keep off of hands and definitely out of eyes!

Source: commercial and industrial chemical supply – should be very inexpensive

Local manufacture: dissolve sodium hydrogen carbonate in distilled water and boil for five or ten minutes to convert the hydrogen carbonate to carbonate. Let evaporate until crystals form. For volumetric analysis, the hydrated salt may always substitute for the anhydrous with a correction to the concentration – see Chemical Substitutions for Volumetric Analysis

## E.92 Sodium chloride

Formula: NaCl

Other names: common salt

Use: all-purpose cheap salt, qualitative analysis

Source: the highest quality salt in markets (white, finely powdered) is best. The iodine salts added to prevent goiter do not generally affect experimental results.

## E.93 Sodium citrate

Use: buffer solutions, preparation of Benedict's solution

Local manufacture: react sodium hydroxide and citric acid in a 3:1 ratio by mole  
 Alternative: to prepare Benedict's solution, see [Benedict's solution](#).

## E.94 Sodium ethanoate

Formula:  $\text{CH}_3\text{CHOONa}$   
 Other names: sodium acetate  
 Use: confirmation of iron (III) ions  
 Local manufacture: react sodium hydrogen carbonate and ethanoic acid in a 1:1 ratio by mole – one 70 g box of baking soda to one liter of white vinegar labelled 5%; if you need to err add excess sodium hydrogen carbonate. If the solid is required, leave to evaporate, but mostly likely you want the solution.

## E.95 Sodium hydrogen carbonate

Formula:  $\text{NaHCO}_3$   
 Description: white powder, in theory completely soluble in cold water in practice often dissolves poorly  
 Other names: sodium bicarbonate, bicarbonate of soda  
 Use: all-purpose weak base, preparation of carbon dioxide, qualitative analysis  
 Source: small shops  
 Note: may contain ammonium hydrogen carbonate

## E.96 Sodium hydroxide

Formula:  $\text{NaOH}$   
 Other names: caustic soda  
 Description: white deliquescent crystals – will look wet after a minute in contact with air and will fully dissolve after some time, depending on humidity and particle size  
 Use: all-purpose strong base, volumetric analysis, food tests in biology, qualitative analysis, preparation of sodium salts of weak acids  
 Hazard: corrodes metal, burns skin, and can blind if it gets in eyes  
 Source: industrial supply shops, supermarkets, hardware stores (drain cleaner)  
 Local manufacture: mix wood ashes in water, let settle, and decant; the resulting solution is mixed sodium and potassium hydroxides and carbonates and will work for practicing volumetric analysis  
 Note: ash extracts are about 0.1 M base and may be concentrated by boiling; this is dangerous, however, and industrial caustic soda is so inexpensive and so pure that there is little reason to use ash

extract other than to show that ashes are alkaline and that sodium hydroxide is not exotic.

## E.97 Sodium hypochlorite solution

Formula:  $\text{NaOCl}_{(\text{aq})}$   
 Other names: bleach  
 Local name: Jik Use: oxidizing agent  
 Source: small shops, supermarkets  
 Local manufacture: electrolysis of concentrated salt water solution with inert (e.g. graphite) electrodes; 4–5 V (three regular batteries) is best for maximum yield  
 Note: commercial bleach is usually 3.5% sodium hypochlorite by weight

## E.98 Sodium nitrate

Formula:  $\text{NaNO}_3$   
 Description: colorless crystals  
 Use: qualitative analysis  
 Hazard: oxidizer, used in the manufacture of explosives e.g. gunpowder  
 Alternative: to practice identification of the sodium cation, use sodium chloride  
 Local manufacture: Mix solutions of calcium ammonium nitrate and sodium carbonate and decant the clear solution once the precipitate (calcium carbonate) settles. Add a stoichiometric quantity of sodium hydroxide and let the reaction happen either outside or with under a condenser to trap the ammonia produced. The clear solution that remains should have no residual ammonia smell and should be neutral pH. Allow the solution to evaporate until sodium nitrate crystallizes.

## E.99 Sodium oxalate

Formula:  $\text{Na}_2\text{C}_2\text{O}_4$   
 Use: demonstration of buffer solutions  
 Hazard: poisonous  
 Alternative: rather than oxalic acid / sodium oxalate, use citric acid / sodium citrate

## E.100 Sodium sulfate

Formula:  $\text{Na}_2\text{SO}_4$   
 Use: qualitative analysis  
 Local manufacture: combine precisely stoichiometric amounts of copper sulfate and sodium carbonate in distilled water. A balance is required to measure exactly the right amounts. Copper carbonate will precipitate and the resulting solution should contain only sodium sulfate. Filter out the copper

carbonate and evaporate the clear solution to dryness. Sodium sulfate is thermally stable, so strong heating may be used to speed up evaporation.

## E.101 Sodium thiosulfate

Formula:  $\text{Na}_2\text{S}_2\text{O}_3 \cdot 5\text{H}_2\text{O}$

Description: clear, hexagonal crystals

Use: reducing agent for redox titrations, sulfur precipitation kinetics experiments

Alternative (reducing agent): ascorbic acid

Alternative (kinetics): reaction between sodium hydrogen carbonate solution and dilute weak acid (citric acid or ethanoic acid), iodoform reaction (iodine solution and propanone)

Source: large agricultural shops (fungicide, e.g. for dusting crops), imported “local” medicine

## E.106 Sulfuric acid

Formula:  $\text{H}_2\text{SO}_4$

Other names: battery acid

Local name: *maji makali*

Description: clear liquid with increasing viscosity at higher concentrations; fully concentrated sulfuric acid ( $\sim 18\text{ M}$ ) is almost twice as dense as water and may take on a yellow, brown, or even black color from contamination

Use: all-purpose strong acid, volumetric analysis, qualitative analysis, preparation of hydrogen and various salts

Source: battery acid from petrol stations is about 4.5 M sulfuric acid and one of the least expensive sources of acid

Hazard: battery acid is dangerous; it will blind if it gets in eyes and will put holes in clothing. Fully concentrated sulfuric acid is monstrous, but fortunately never required. For qualitative analysis, “concentrated” sulfuric acid means  $\sim 5\text{ M}$  – battery acid will suffice.

Note: “dilute” sulfuric acid should be about 1 M. To prepare this from battery acid, add one volume of battery acid to four volumes of water (e.g. 100 mL battery acid + 400 mL water)

## E.102 Succinic acid

Formula:  $\text{HOOCCH}_2\text{CH}_2\text{COOH}$

Description: white solid

Use: solute for partitioning in distribution (partition) experiments

Alternative: iodine also partitions well between aqueous and organic solvents; titrate iodine with ascorbic acid (or sodium thiosulfate) rather than sodium hydroxide as you would with succinic acid; ethanoic acid also partitions between some solvent combinations.

## E.107 Starch

Description: light weight, fine, white powder, not readily soluble in cold water

Confirm: makes a blue to black color with iodine solution

Use: preparation of starch solution

Source: supermarkets

## E.103 Sucrose

Formula:  $\text{C}_{12}\text{H}_{22}\text{O}_{11}$

Use: non-reducing sugar for food tests

Source: common sugar; the brown granular sugar at the market and in small shops is more common; the more refined white sugar is available in supermarkets

Note: sometimes impure sucrose causes Benedict’s solution to turn green, even yellow. Try using more refined sugar. Alternatively, insist to students than only a red/orange precipitate is a positive test for a reducing sugar during exams.

## E.104 Sudan III solution

Use: testing for fats in food tests

Alternative: ethanol-free iodine solution

## E.108 Starch solution

Use: sample for food tests, indicator for redox titrations involving iodine

Source: dilute the water left from boiling pasta or potatoes

Note: prepare freshly – after a day or two it will start to rot!

## E.105 Sulfur

Local name: *kibiriti upele*

Description: light yellow powder with distinct sulfurous smell

Use: element, preparation of iron sulfide

## E.109 Tetrachloromethane

Formula:  $\text{CCl}_4$

Other names: carbon tetrachloride

Description: clean liquid, insoluble in and more dense than water

Use: organic solvent for distribution (partition) experiments  
 Hazard: toxic, probably carcinogen – never use  
 Alternative: other organic solvents – paint thinner and kerosene are the least expensive

## **E.110 Trichloromethane**

Formula:  $\text{CHCl}_3$   
 Other names: chloroform  
 Description: clear liquid, insoluble in and more dense than water, noxious smell  
 Use: rendering biological specimens unconscious prior to dissection, as an organic solvent for the distribution (partition) experiments  
 Alternative (biology): the specimen will die regardless so unless you are investigating the circulatory system you might as well kill it in advance; this also avoids the problem of specimens regaining consciousness before they bleed to death. See instructions in Dissections.  
 Alternative (chemistry): lower cost and safer organic solvents like kerosene can be used to practice distribution (partitioning), but unlike chloroform they are less dense than water.

## **E.111 Tungsten**

Symbol: W  
 Use: element  
 Source: incandescent light bulb filaments  
 Extraction: wrap a light bulb in a rag and break it with a blunt object. The filament is the thin coiled wire. Dispose of the broken glass in a safe place, like a pit latrine.  
 Note: in a dead bulb, the cause of failure is probably the filament, so there might not be much left.

## **E.112 Zinc**

Description: firm silvery metal, usually coated with a dull oxide

Use: element, preparation of hydrogen, preparation of zinc carbonate and zinc sulfate  
 Source: dry cell batteries; under the outer steel shell is an inner cylinder of zinc. In new batteries, this whole shell may be extracted. In used batteries, the battery has consumed most of the zinc during the reaction, but there is generally an unused ring of zinc around the top that easily breaks off. Note that alkaline batteries, unlike dry cells, are unsafe to open – and much more difficult besides.

## **E.113 Zinc carbonate**

Formula:  $\text{ZnCO}_3$   
 Description: white powder  
 Use: qualitative analysis  
 Local manufacture: dissolve excess zinc metal in dilute sulfuric acid and leave overnight or until the acid is completely consumed. Decant the resulting zinc sulfate solution and mix with a sodium carbonate solution. Zinc carbonate will precipitate and may be purified by filtration and gentle drying.

## **E.114 Zinc chloride and zinc nitrate**

Description: clear, deliquescent crystals  
 Use: qualitative analysis  
 Alternative: to practice identification of zinc, use zinc sulfate or zinc carbonate; to practice identification of chloride use sodium chloride

## **E.115 Zinc sulfate**

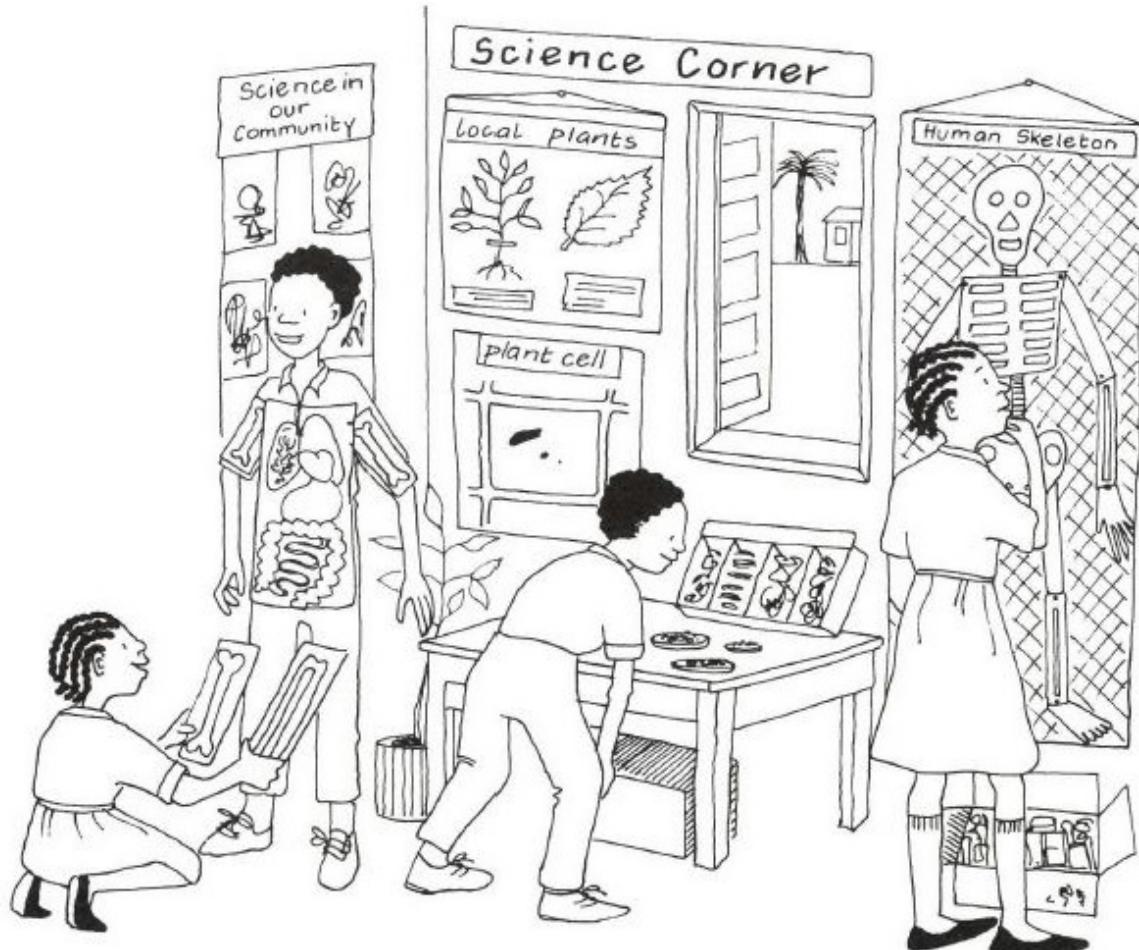
Formula:  $\text{ZnSO}_4$   
 Use: qualitative analysis  
 Local manufacture: dissolve excess zinc metal in dilute sulfuric acid and leave overnight or until the acid is completely consumed. Decant the resulting zinc sulfate solution and evaporate until crystals form.

## **Part III**

# **Interactive Learning**

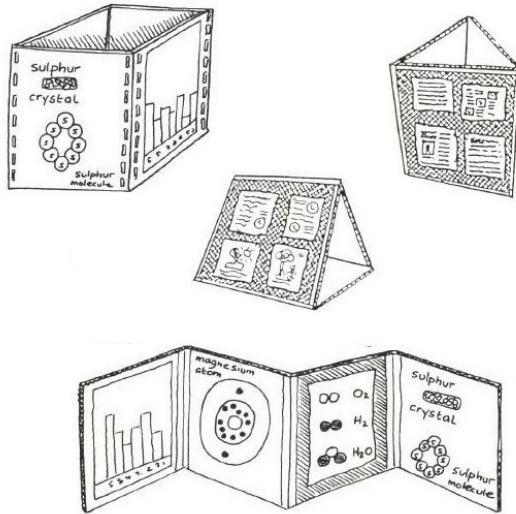
# Visual Aids and Displays

## F.1 Science Corner



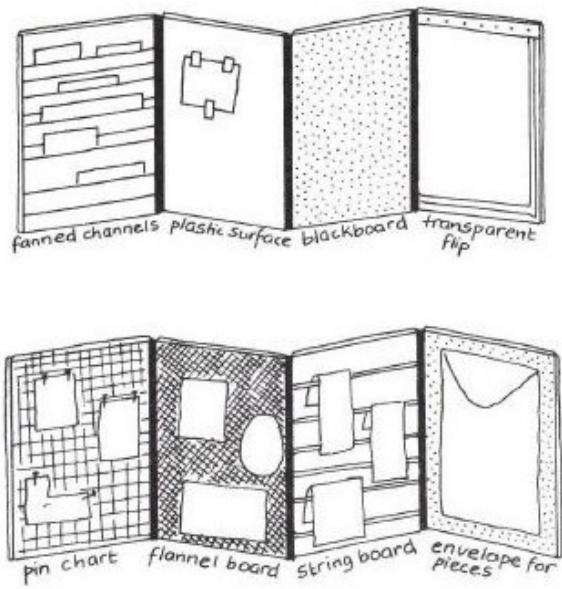
- A table pushed into a corner can be the start of a science corner in the classroom.
- A few nails or strips of wood can be added above the table to hang posters and specimens.
- The corner could be the focus for science club or science fair activities.

## F.2 Cardboard Box Displays



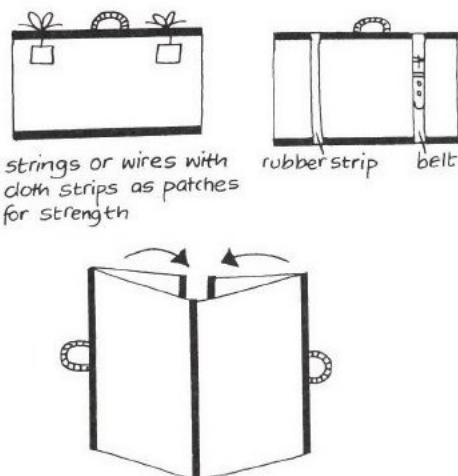
- Pin display work on the sides of the box.
- Sew or tape cardboard sheets together to make a box.
- A box can show 8 sides.

### F.2.1 Zigzag Multiboards



- A portable zigzag board can hold and display many items.

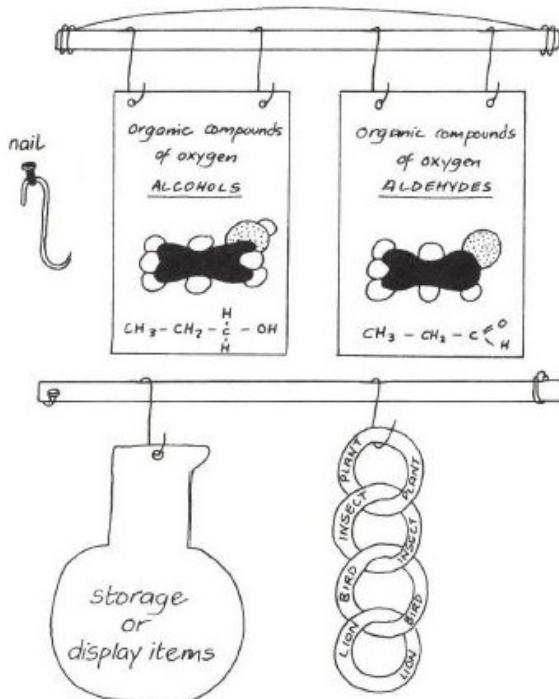
### F.2.2 Portability



- Fold the outer wings in, close the board.
- The boards can be made from plywood, hard-wood or cardboard.
- Fastenings can be made from many materials.

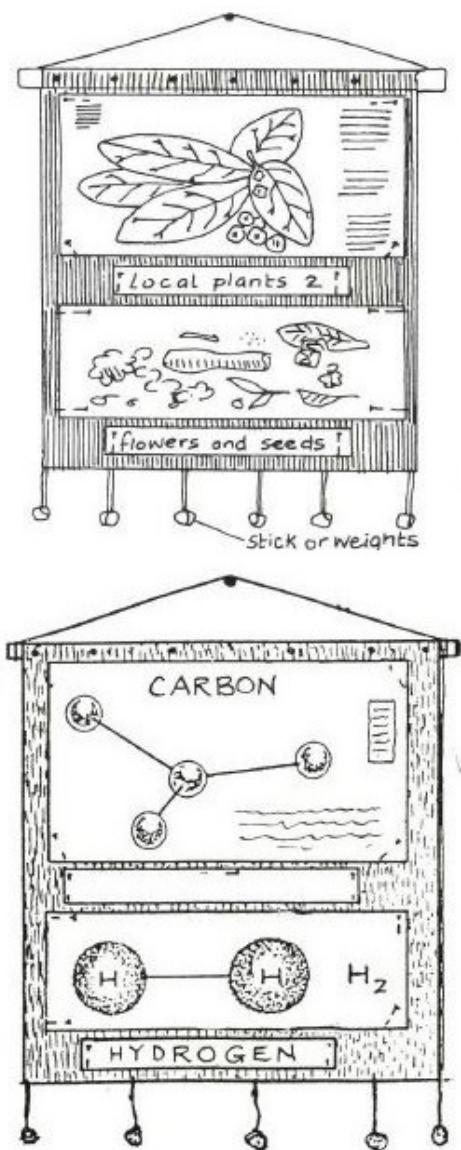
## F.3 Hanging Displays

### F.3.1 Display Beams and Hooks

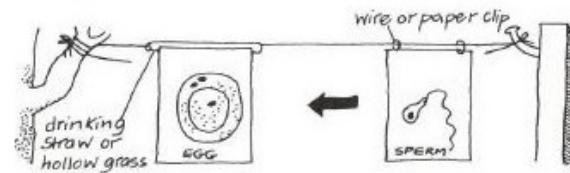
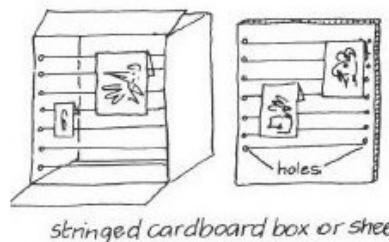
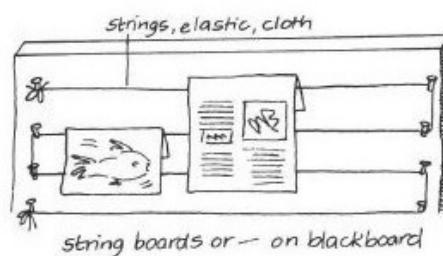
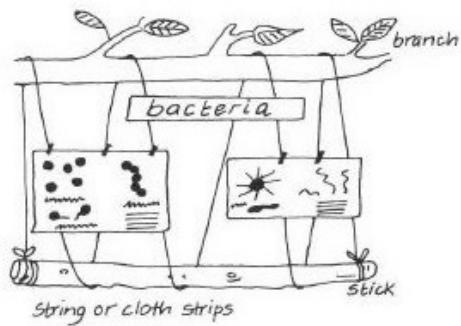


- Make a beam supported by 2 nails or loops of wire. It can be hung on the wall, or suspended from a beam.
- Hooks of wire allow easy and swift display.

### F.3.2 Display Charts



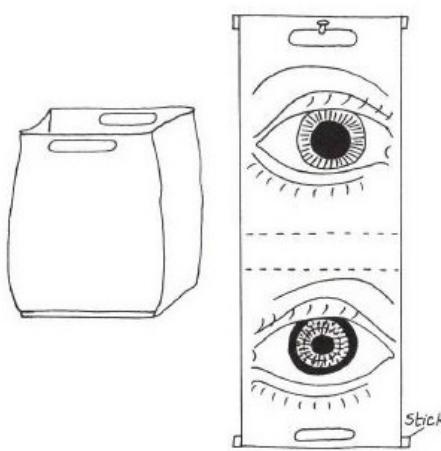
### F.3.3 String Display Lines



- Display charts can be made from durable cement bags, cloth, cardboard boxes, sleeping mats and blankets.
- To make the chart hang flat, attach a strip of wood to the top and either another strip of wood or weights to the bottom.
- Strips at top and bottom will strengthen the chart and make it last longer.
- Attach items to be displayed to the chart with office pins, cactus needles or sharpened matchsticks.

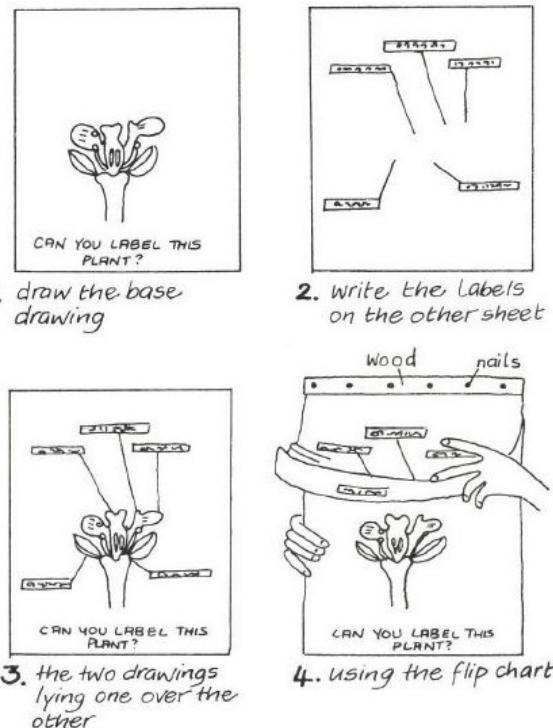
- String can be used in many ways to display items. Some ideas are given here.
- Hollow tubes, e.g. drinking straws, or paper clips will allow the display to slide up and down the string.

### F.3.4 Carrier Bag Display



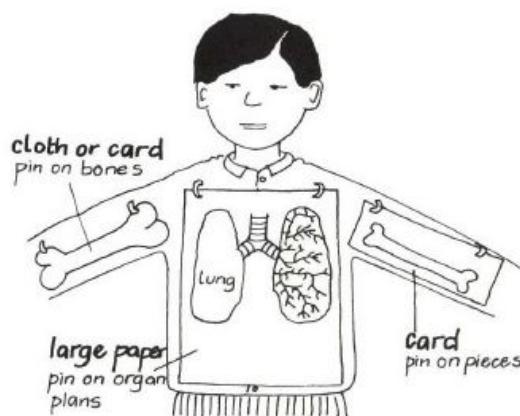
- Attaching a wooden stick at the top and bottom of the carrier bag adds strength and makes it hang flat.
- Permanent or temporary marker pens can be used to draw onto the plastic.
- Use Sellotape tabs to attach pieces to the display chart. These can be movable pieces.

### F.4 Transparent Flip-Sheets



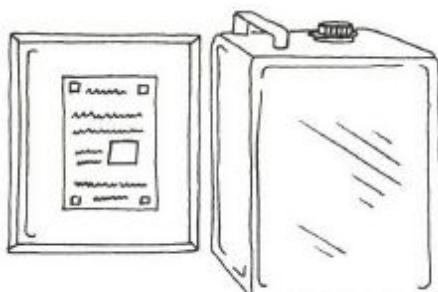
- You will need plastic sheets (from a stationery store), a bar of wood and some nails or pins.
- Lift up different sheets to show the combinations you want.

### F.5 Clothing Posters



- Body organs could be drawn, painted or pinned onto gloves, T-shirts or trousers.

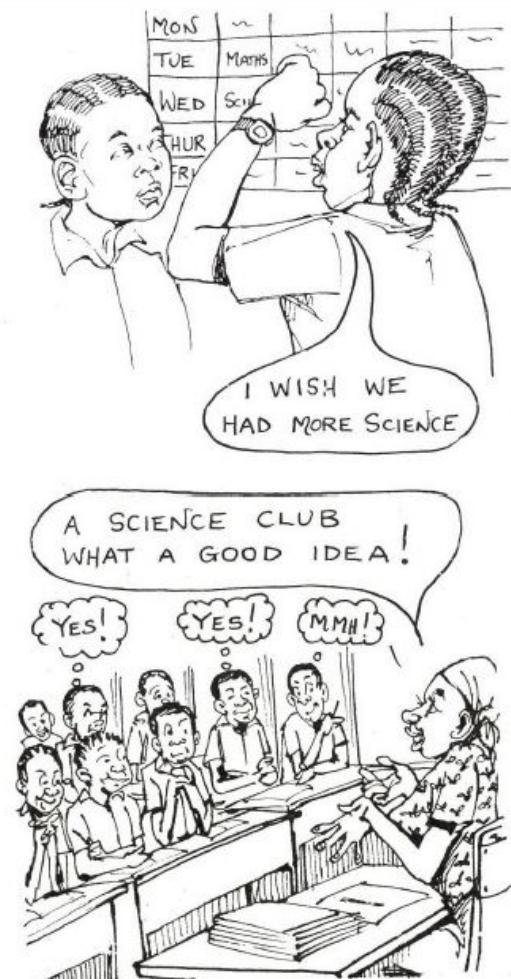
### F.6 Magnet Boards



- Use a thin metal sheet. Paint it black to act as a blackboard too.
- Metal could come from old cans or car panels, fridge doors, filing cabinets, steel shelves, flattened corrugated sheet, storage trunks.
- Tape over the edges of the sheet, or hammer the edges over for safety.
- Magnetize small pieces of metal to attach pictures to the metal sheet.
- Painting the metal pieces white makes them less noticeable. Glue the magnetic pieces to the back of pictures used regularly.

# Science Outside the Classroom

## G.1 Science Clubs



A science club is an association of young people, with one or more adult sponsors, organised to carry out extra-curricular science activities. The nature of this out-of-school science education should be such that it both complements and supplements science education in school.

It should include those activities that are not easily provided at school, and also those that the constraints of the curriculum or time usually exclude. Out-of-school science education can emphasize the role of science in the community or encourage creativity among young people and be a valuable means of linking education with productive work.

### G.1.1 Organizing a Club



The ideas for a new science or JETS (Junior Engineers, Technologists and Scientists) club may come from students or the teacher. Before rushing into establishing the club the following questions must be considered:

- Is it for science alone or could it include other areas (engineering and technology)?
- Are there any other clubs/ Has there been a science club in the past? If so, why did it fail?
- Are there any regulations (school or elsewhere) which might affect the formation of the club?
- Does the constitution have to be approved?
- Where and when can the club meet?
- Does the club need funds to operate? Where will this money come from?
- What do other staff members think? Do others want to be involved?

The teacher or sponsor should call the first meeting to establish the structure and scope of the club. It is better to start off with a small club with modest aims than to be over ambitious. While the adult sponsor is vital to the success of a club, she/he cannot and should not be expected to do all the work. She/he should act as an adviser helping when needed. Nevertheless sponsors must be willing to give generously of her/his time. A real interest and enthusiasm are the keys to success! Enthusiasm is contagious, but so is lack of enthusiasm!

### G.1.2 Activities Record Book



The club should keep a detailed record of the science activities carried out at each meeting. These should include judgments on the success or failure of an activity. Many teachers keep their own personal note book record of successful activities, which they are able to add to throughout their teaching career. Most of the activities described in the *Shika Express* companion manuals are ideal for use as out-of-school activities.

### G.1.4 Science in the News Book



Keep up with current scientific affairs and general knowledge by keeping all selected newspaper and magazine cuttings in a permanent album. Build up a library of cuttings over your school years.

Newspaper cuttings are an ideal source of information for essays or quiz questions.

### G.1.3 Science Notice Board



Display newspaper and magazine articles on a science notice board. Notices giving dates and times of regular meetings and special events can be included. Why not hold a poster competition to see who can create the most attractive or imaginative work. Why not ask club members to write essays on science topics for the board?

### G.1.5 Personal Science Kits



Students could start to collect items for their own science kits. Why not hold a science kit competition? Ask groups of students to collect low or no cost materials from the local environment which could be used for science activities.

### G.1.6 Collections and Research



Students can make collections of a wide variety of objects. Here are some ideas: rocks and minerals; shells; types of wood; leaves; flowers; bones; natural and artificial fabrics; metals; stamps; types of paper and card. Collections can be mounted labeled and displayed in the science corner.

### G.1.7 Additional Practicals



Students get the opportunity to do interesting science practicals which may not be in their text books or syllabus.

### G.2 Science Fairs

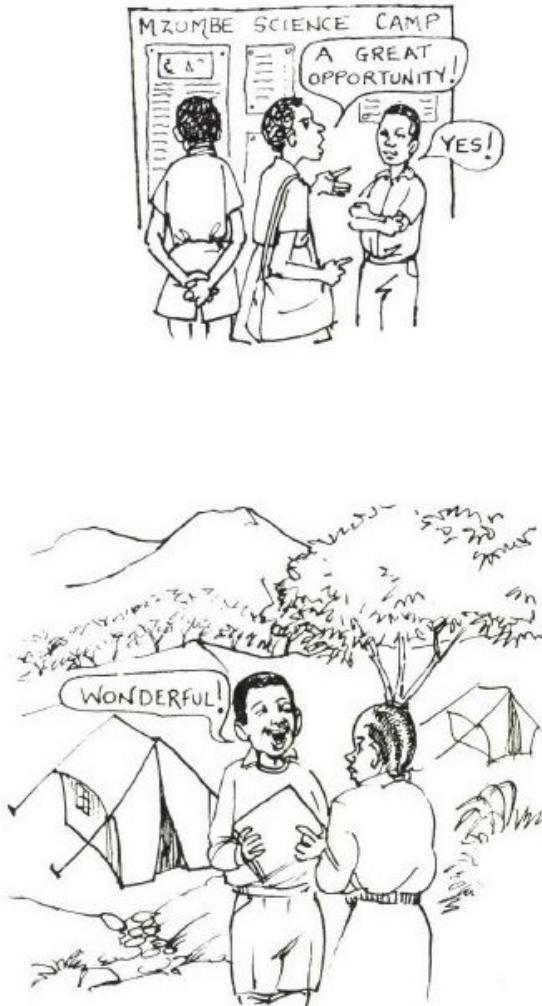


Science fairs can be an excellent motivation for science club activities. These could involve exhibitions of projects, essay writing competitions (a), project presentations (b), debates (c), with certificates for prize winners. Organisers should note that the presentation of certificates, prizes or awards may increase the basic running costs of the club. A sponsor from local industry, business or community group could be sought.

### G.3 Science Competitions

Students love to compete and show their knowledge of math and science! Organize a small competition among interested students or create a multi-day competition using a variety of activities. See the *Shika na Mikono* resource manuals for plenty of great competition activities.

## G.4 Science Conferences and Camps



Science camps can be organised during the holidays. These can be for a few days or several weeks. As well as giving students the opportunity to gain first hand knowledge it also gives youngsters the chance to live and work together with their peers and supportive adults.

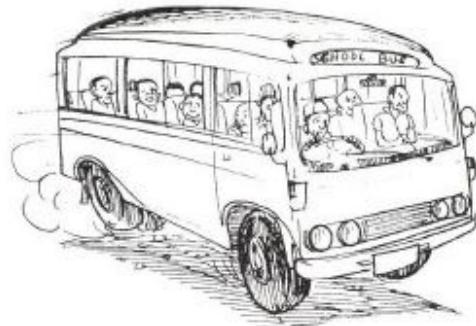
There are two main types of camp:

- (a) held in an established institution like a school, college, university, or special study centre.
- (b) may involve outdoor camping often in a remote setting, to carry out a set research project.

If a camp is located at an institution the activities may be more laboratory based and involve the design, construction and testing of apparatus in order to study specific topics. The nature of the activities at an outdoor camp will depend on the location chosen.

See the *Shika na Mikono* resource manual for more information on holding math and science conferences and other events.

## G.5 Field Trips



A scientific excursion may have a variety of objectives, but it is very important that the major objectives are known before the visit starts. If possible an initial planning visit is made by the teacher (or sponsor) to the excursion site, in order to familiarise themselves with the local environment and discover any difficulties. Detailed forward planning is often the secret to a successful visit. Meeting local resource persons could lead to an altering of plans. Planning must include the very important topics of finance and safety!

# Science in the Community

## H.1 Science for All



Science clubs and activities are most often school based, but they may be organised at a science centre, community hall, factory or business. In many countries a large proportion of the school age populations are not at school, and never will be. They receive only the barest contact during elementary years and thus may have no real opportunity to learn or experience science and technology.

Therefore, the potential for out-of-school science and technology education is enormous, ranging from the vast numbers of adults to the large numbers of school-age leavers who have had no formal education or inadequate contact with science education.

How can your school and community help spread and share science for all? A community science club may be the answer - a joint venture between school and community.

## H.2 Science Target Groups



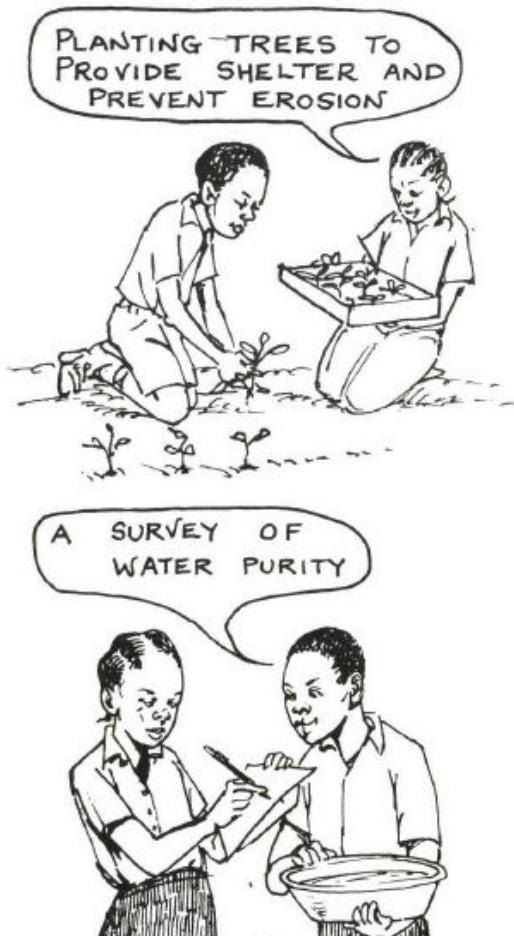
"All out-of-school science activities and programmes should be planned and developed according to the identified needs, interests real-life problems and concerns of the various target groups." (UNESCO)

(a) The formal school populations, who need out-of-school activities to enrich, supplement and complement school science education curricula.

(b) Out of school youth and adults (early dropouts from school, illiterates, general work force), who need activities designed to develop a basic scientific literacy, to create interest and to form an appropriate, relevant scientific climate of opinion.

(c) Educated youths and adults for whom out-of-school activities should be part of a lifelong education, designed to clarify changing socioeconomic and cultural conditions and rapid changes in the applications and relevance of scientific and technological ideas and developments.

### H.3 Environmental Awareness



A vital role of a science club or group is to raise environmental awareness in the school and community. Millions of people are very concerned about what is happening to our world and looking for ways to change things for the better. Perhaps you think that means you don't have to get involved, or that the environment is getting enough attention. Nothing could be further from the truth - the battle is nowhere near won!

This can take the form of surveys, plays, studies, posters, discussions and debates. Many socially beneficial environmental protection activities can be undertaken, such as the creation of specific miniature reserves or patches, tree and shrub planting to prevent erosion and provide shade; protecting newly planted trees from animals; beautifying ones home and greening of street and courtyards.

One of the most important roles of the club in the community is to look-out for environmental hazards like water pollution which may affect everyone's health and happiness.

### H.4 Wildlife Conservation



Out-of-school activities give an excellent opportunity for students to collect and study small wild creatures. The teacher must instruct the students to be careful not to distress the animals while the study is being carried out.

Wherever possible living things should be studied in their own habitats. If this is not possible and they have to be captured, the students MUST try to return the animals to their original home. Students must be made aware that by destroying wildlife habitats they destroy the wildlife. By protecting habitats Tanzania's precious wildlife resources will be conserved for future generations.

## H.5 Science and Health



Health education is part of school science, but can also be a major focus for out-of-school activities. Good science teaching and scientific thinking can improve health. Health education is concerned with skills for life: skills which can save and improve lives; skills which go out of the classroom and are used in daily life and which, when thoroughly learnt, last for life.

Pollution of the environment is the major cause of health problems in a community. Students need to be able to identify polluting health hazards in the local environment. Health is one of the areas which confirms to students that scientific thinking need not be confined to the laboratory but should be applied in many different situations.

# Activity Template

The Shika members know that there is always room for new and improved activities, and it is much appreciated, so below is a template for contributing activities to the current manuals.

Please fill out the table below and send it to [shika.mikono.tz@gmail.com](mailto:shika.mikono.tz@gmail.com). Not every cell has to be filled in - some cells may not be applicable to each activity. Examples of how the activities should look can be found throughout this manual. Corresponding pictures can also be sent to the above email address.

| Section                   | Fill this in... | Comments  |
|---------------------------|-----------------|---|
| Title                     |                 | The title of your activity  |
| Form, Topic, and Subtopic |                 | The form, topic, and subtopic that this activity applies to in the syllabus                   |
| Materials                 |                 | List all the materials needed to complete the activity  |
| Setup                     |                 | What to do to prepare the activity  |
| Procedure                 |                 | How to carry out the actual activity  |
| Hazards                   |                 | If there is any danger involved with the activity, state it here and what to do if it happens |
| Questions                 |                 | Possible follow-up or discussion questions  |
| Observations              |                 | State what is observed as a result of the activity  |
| Theory                    |                 | Background information and theory behind the activity   |
| Applications              |                 | Any real-life applications or uses of the activity  |
| Notes                     |                 | Any other information that should be stated about the activity                                |

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