

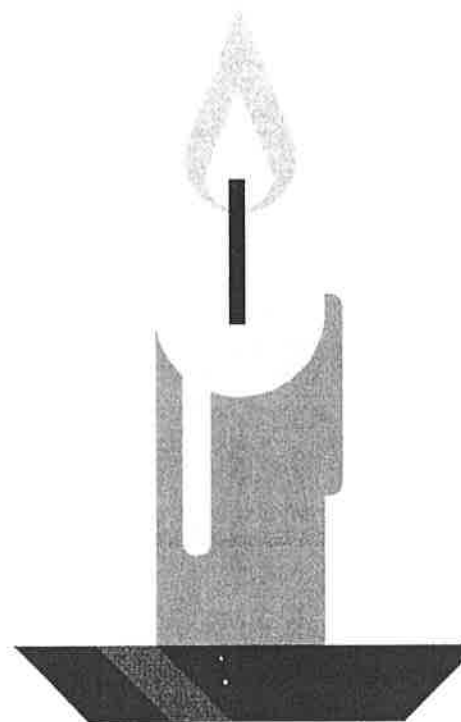
QUALITATIVE OBSERVATIONS OF A CHEMICAL REACTION

INTRODUCTION:

Scientists rely heavily on experimentation. A good scientist must observe and interpret what is happening. Observing means you are using the senses such as smelling, seeing, touching, hearing and sometimes tasting.

NEVER TASTE CHEMICALS UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO DO SO BY YOUR TEACHER!

When scientists make observations, they try to be objective. Being objective means putting aside any preconceived notions. Scientists are interested in what *really* occurs, not what they *wish* would occur. After observations are made, scientists must make interpretations. Interpretations are based on previous knowledge and experience. Because people have different experiences, one scientist may interpret observations in one way while another may interpret the same observation differently. When we interpret, we attempt to make sure out of our observations. Scientists never assume that their interpretations are correct until they test them fully and repeatedly. After completing testing, scientists then come to their conclusions. In this investigation, you will make some qualitative observations of chemical reactions.



PURPOSE:

SAFETY:

Make a list of all safety procedures related to this lab.

MATERIALS:

250 mL beaker

125 flask

Candle & matches

Glass square

microspatula

string

Metric ruler

microslide

toothpicks

Rubber stopper

Safety goggles

Aluminum foil

PROCEDURE:

In this experiment, you will be working with an open flame. Tie back long hair and secure loose clothing. Also, wear safety goggles at all times when working in the lab. Be sure all matches and burned materials are completely extinguished before they are discarded. Make sure all observations are recorded in your lab notebook.

1. Note appearance, odor, and feel of the unlighted candle
2. Heat the bottom of the candle and secure it to a glass square on your lab bench. Light the candle and allow it to burn for several minutes. Note any changes. Briefly describe the burning candle.
3. Blow out the flame and immediately place a lighted match in the "smoke" about 2 cm above the wick. See Figure 1. Note the result.

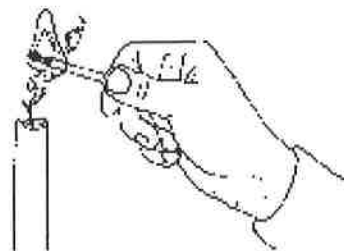


Figure 1

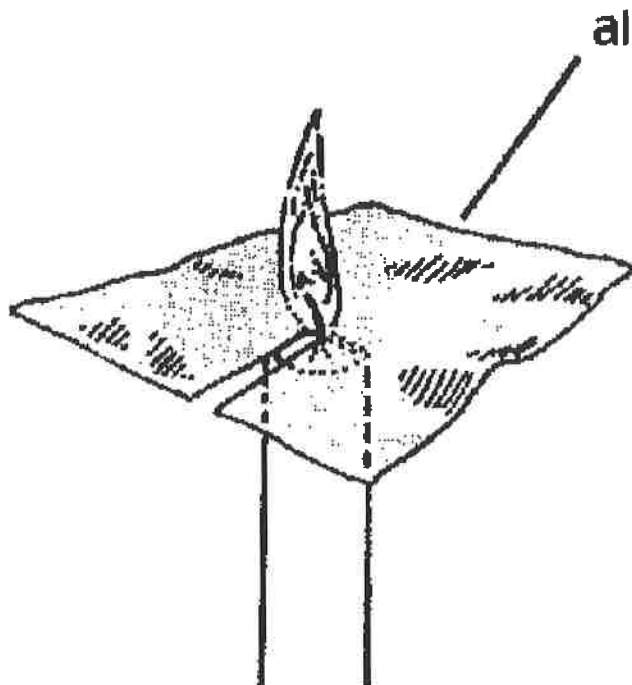


Figure 2

QUESTIONS:

Copy and complete the following questions in your lab notebook.

1. What phases (solid, liquid, gas) are present in the unlighted candle?
2. What phases (solid, liquid, gas) are present in the burning candle?
3. What phase appears to take part in the chemical reaction?
4. What pieces of evidence suggest that a chemical change has occurred?
5. What pieces of evidence suggest that a physical change has occurred?
6. What other observations did you make during this lab?

4. Use the microspatula to transfer a small amount of liquid from the bowl of the candle onto a microslide. Try to light it and note the result.

5. Place a toothpick into the soft candle next to the unlighted wick to form a wooden wick. Light the toothpick and note the result.

6. Place a length of string about 4 cm long on the glass square. Try to light it and note the result.

7. Make a slit in a piece of aluminum foil. See Figure 2. Light the candle. Place the foil between the base of the flame and the liquid in the candle bowl. Note the behavior of the flame.

8. Invert a 250 ml beaker over the lighted candle. See Figure 3. Note any substance on the inside of the beaker. Test the liquid with cobalt chloride paper.

9. Invert a 125 ml Erlenmeyer flask over the lighted candle for several minutes. Remove the flask, turn it right side up, and add about 10 ml of the clear limewater solution. Stopper and shake the flask. Note any change in the limewater solution.

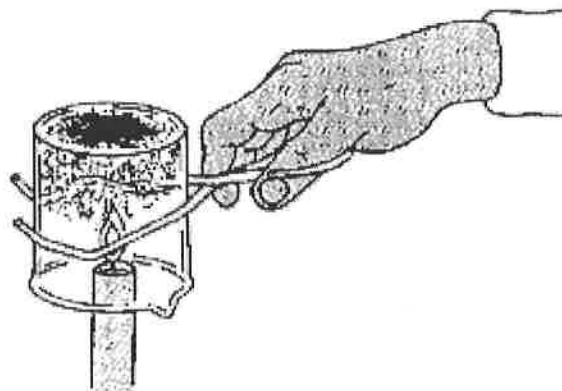


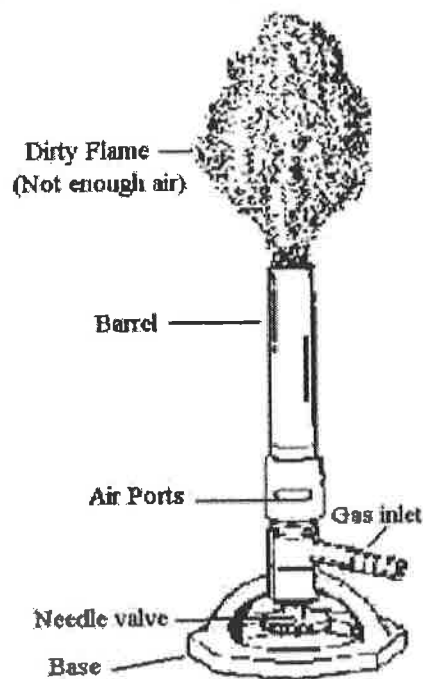
Figure 3

PROCEDURE:

1. Obtain a Bunsen burner and light the burner as instructed.
 - a. Connect the hose to the table outlet. Clear the area of all flammable objects (including clothing and your hair!)
 - b. Turn the barrel so that the air intake openings are closed, and then open them three full turns.
 - c. Close the gas flow valve at the bottom of the burner, and then open it three full turns.
 - d. Put on your goggles, open the gas valve on the table and light the burner using a striker.
2. Adjust the spud so that the flame is the approximately 7 to 8 centimeters high (or about 3 inches)

3. Turn the collar in the direction that decreases the air supply. What is the color of the flame at this point?

4. Turn the collar in the direction that increases the air supply. What is the color of the flame at this point?



5. Using the crucible tongs, hold a clean, dry crucible lid in the blue flame for about 15 seconds. Remove the lid from the flame and decrease the air supply to produce a yellow flame. Hold the crucible lid in the yellow flame for about 15 seconds. Record your observations.

6. Adjust the collar to produce a blue flame. Hold the wire gauze with forceps above the flame and slowly lower the wire gauze toward the top of the burner. Glowing regions of the wire gauze indicate the part of the flame that is hot. Determine the hottest part of the flame based on the wire gauze. Record your observations.

QUESTIONS:

1. What is the function of the collar, the barrel and the spud?
2. What causes the flame from the burner to be yellow?
3. What should you do to make a yellow flame into a blue flame?
4. Why did the yellow flame deposit soot on the crucible lid but the blue flame did not?
5. How should a test tube be heated when using a bunsen burner?

