

Chemistry Surprise

Materials per pair of students: goggles, zipper-seal bag (empty), bag with baking soda (labeled), bag with Heat ice melt (labeled), water, plastic spoon, film canister (or small bowl/beaker), balance, Student Handout

Procedure:

1. Have students title their Handout.
2. Go over Materials; list each on the Handout.
3. Procedure- Have students number from 1-6 in this section of the Handout.
4. You will demonstrate each steps to students. After each one they will write the step and then do it.
5. Summary of steps:
 1. Put on goggles.
 2. Add 1 scoop of NaHCO_3 to a corner of the empty baggie (1 student holds the bag open while the other puts in the powder).
 3. Pinch the bag in the middle and add 1 scoop of CaCl_2 to the other corner.
 4. Fill the canister with water.
 5. Set the canister inside the bag between the powders. Have one student hold the canister while the other seals the bag shut. Weigh and record.
 6. Mix the contents and observe. Re-weigh and record.
5. Make a “Before” and “After” sketch, so students pay closer attention to details and have a place to put observations.
6. Copy the Notes.
7. Clean up/get ready for next class.

Extensions:

- Redo the activity but change one variable. Compare results.
- To see how well your students observe and write, demonstrate the steps 1 at a time without talking. At the end, see what details they missed, and how important those were.