

In order to determine whether a chemical change has occurred, it is important to observe and record the physical properties of the substance before it has changed.

The purpose of this activity is two-fold: firstly, to learn the different ways of describing matter, and secondly, to learn how to prepare a lab report for your teacher.

Pre-lab preparation

Start this lab on a piece of blank, lined paper. Use pen.

- Write the title at the top of the page, along with the date.
- Place the heading 'Observations' on the left side of your paper, below the title.
- Use a ruler to make a neat data table as modelled below.

Name of substance	State	Colour	Clarity	Other description

Procedure

- Proceed to anyone of the nine stations on the lab benches.
- Observe and then record the description of the substance in your data table.
- For the 'Other description' column, note the texture, smell, and any other observation that you make about the substance.
- DO NOT** taste any of the substances.
- Wash your hands before returning to your seat.
- Answer the lab questions below your observation chart. (Include the heading: Questions, and use complete sentences and good grammar.)

Questions

- Which substance had a characteristic smell?
- Which substance had a vibrant colour?
- Name the substance whose state was unique.
- What was the purpose of this lab activity?