

Intro to Earth Science

Section 2: Lab Safety

Science investigations can be exciting and informative, but they must always be done safely. Following proper lab safety rules helps prevent accidents, protects equipment, and ensures that experiments are completed successfully. Before beginning any investigation, it is important to understand how to work responsibly in a lab setting.

General Safety Rules

Always follow your teacher's instructions and read all directions carefully before starting an experiment. Never rush or act carelessly in the lab. Keep your workspace clean and organized, and only use materials and equipment as directed. Food, drinks, and gum should never be brought into the lab.

Personal Safety

Wearing proper safety equipment is essential. Safety goggles protect your eyes from chemicals, heat, or flying particles. Gloves and aprons help protect your skin and clothing. Long hair should be tied back, and loose clothing or jewelry should be secured to prevent accidents.

Handling Equipment and Materials

Use all lab tools and equipment properly. Handle glassware carefully to avoid breakage. When using sharp objects, heat sources, or chemicals, follow directions closely. Never touch, taste, or smell substances unless instructed to do so, and always use proper techniques, such as wafting, when smelling chemicals.

Chemical Safety

Chemicals can be hazardous if used incorrectly. Always read labels before using any substance. Never mix chemicals unless directed to do so and never return unused chemicals to their original containers. If a spill occurs, notify your teacher immediately and follow proper cleanup procedures.

Emergency Procedures

Accidents can happen, so it is important to be prepared. Know the location of safety equipment such as fire extinguishers, eyewash stations, and first aid kits. Report any injuries, spills, or broken equipment to your teacher right away. In case of an emergency, remain calm and follow instructions.

After the Lab

When the experiment is complete, clean your workspace and return all materials to their proper place. Dispose of waste as instructed and wash your hands thoroughly with soap and water.

Intro to Earth Science

Section 2: Lab Safety Cont.

Lab safety symbols:



Take care when handling sharp objects



Follow instruction to avoid injury when physical activity is required



Wash hands thoroughly with soap and water



Properly dispose of materials in proper bins



Handle animals with caution and respect



Handle plants only as directed by teacher

Review:

1. Why is it important to follow rules in the lab?