

Exercise 1C

WHAT IS AIR? AIR IS A GAS!

THE PROPERTIES OF MATTER

PROCEDURE

1. Set the three glass containers on a desk, one containing the solid object, another containing some water and the third containing “nothing.”
2. Have students describe what they see in relation to these three states of matter. Possible answers include:
 - Solid has its own shape inside the jar.
 - Liquid takes the shape of the container but has one free surface.
 - Gas fills the entire container.
How can we push all of the air out of the jar?
3. There may be some other properties they can name. Ask students what they notice about these states of matter when they are compressed. Older students may be able to talk about the distance between molecules in the three states of matter as well.
4. Take them as far as they can go!

TARGET GRADE LEVEL

4TH-5TH GRADE

OVERVIEW

Gas is one of the three states of matter.

The two other states of matter are solids and liquids.

TIME

One class period.

MATERIALS

- 3 glass containers, such as screw top jars
- a block or other solid object that will fit into the container
- water
- classroom map (included)

Exercise 1C

LINKING ACTIVITY WITH OZONE ALERT! (SEE CHAPTER 3)

1. We need to breathe air to live. If our air isn't clean, it affects our health.
2. Just because we can't see pollution doesn't mean it isn't in the air we breathe.
3. Taking actions on Ozone Alert! days helps keep our air clean.
4. What are some simple actions students can take that can help clean the air?
5. How might we know if our air isn't clean? Have students draw pictures of, or list, things they think make our air dirty.

LINKING EXERCISE 1B WITH OZONE ALERT! (CHAPTER 3)

Refer to and/or repeat Exercise 1E ("Where's That Odor?") for the following discussion:

1. After pollutants are released, they are moved to other communities by the wind.
2. Our own actions affect other people who might not even live near us. Can students name some neighboring communities?
3. Can students name some activities they (or their parents) do that might affect the air (and other people)?
4. What are some simple actions students can take that can help clean the air?

Educational activities for Kindergarten - Grade 5

From: Southeast Michigan Council of Governments

http://www.semco.org/Services/OzoneAction/assets/gradek_5.pdf