Liquids and Gases
Classroom Activity

SYNOPSIS

Students will conduct an experiment to compare how different liquids evaporate into gases.

OBJECTIVES

Students will be able to:

- state two characteristics of a liquid
- state two characteristics of a gas

MATERIALS

- water
- alcohol
- ruler
- scissors
- tape
- paper towel
- pencil
- two 16 oz. paper or plastic cups
- two smaller paper or plastic cups

PROCEDURE

1. Place the two large (16 oz.) cups upside down on a flat surface.
2. Place the pencil across the cups and tape the pencil down (See diagram on following page).
3. Cut two strips of paper towel, 20 cm. long and four cm. wide.
4. Write “W” on one strip of paper towel and “A” on the other strip.
5. Pour 1 tablespoon of water into a small cup and 1 tablespoon of alcohol into another cup.
6. Dip the “W” towel into the water until it is completely wet.
7. Dip the “A” towel into the alcohol until it is completely wet.
8. Place the wet strips at the ends of the ruler.
9. Place the ruler on the pencil so that it is balanced across the pencil.
10. Observe what happens.
11. Record your answers in your science notebook.

Liquids and Gases
Classroom Activity (cont.)

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Ask the students what happened to the alcohol.
2. Ask the students if the water will eventually evaporate into the air (yes).
3. You can discuss phase changes and how the liquids turn into gas.
4. Different liquids evaporate at different rates and evaporation is a characteristic of liquids.

EXTENSIONS

- Have the students experiment with different liquids.
- Have the students make mixtures (such as sugar water) and then test the mixtures.