

Common Writing Assignment: Science

Is it a chemical change?



The data table below describes observations that were made while watching different processes.

Processes	Observations
Stirring salt in water	Water becomes cloudy then clear again.
Holding an ice cube in your hand	Fingers feel cold. Water begins to drip through fingers.
Pouring vinegar into a Ziploc bag of baking soda	Fizzing and bubbling, the bag expands, the materials feel cold through the bag.
Heating water in a pan	Water bubbles and eventually there is no water in the pan.
Leaving an iron nail outside	Nail turns from silver to orange. Surface gets rough and flakey.
Lighting a match	There is a flame, smoke, and when the flame goes out, there is a black, brittle substance left behind.

Write a paper that identifies which of the processes are chemical changes. Use evidence to support your claim and explain your reasoning. Be sure to include why the other processes are not chemical changes.

Don't Forget to...

Plan your writing using an outline, web or graphic organizer. As you write each draft of your assignment, it's important to use what you know as a writer to communicate your ideas effectively.

- ✓ Provide a clear claim that answers the question.
- ✓ Include evidence -- using data from class activities, experiments and other resources.
- ✓ Include reasoning to show how your evidence supports your claim.
- ✓ Use vocabulary that you have learned in science class.
- ✓ Check for grammar, punctuation, and spelling errors.