



Chemistry of Combustion

Grade/Subject: 8th Science

Strand/Standard 8.1.3 Plan and conduct an investigation and then **analyze and interpret** the data to identify patterns in changes in a substance's properties to determine whether a chemical reaction has occurred. Examples could include changes in properties such as color, density, flammability, odor, solubility, or state. (PS1.A, PS1.B)

Lesson Performance Expectations: Students will be able to explain the concept of combustion-burning of materials

Materials:

- Demonstration/investigation materials:
- 1 Magnesium strip or coil
- 1 Bunsen burner and tubing
- 1 tub with soapy water
- Student investigation materials:
- large jar or beaker
- Combustibles: marshmallows, crackers, peanuts, paper, candle, cardboard etc.
- Lighter or wooden splint (the teacher may wish to do the lighting if you do not want students to have lighters)
- Long tweezers, dissecting probes or another method of holding the burning object
- A tin pie pan for burning items to drop into or be placed into
- A tub of water for emergency flame stoppage

Time: 1-2 50 minute periods

Teacher Background Information:

Chemical reactions with knowledge of reactants and products (bonds are broken and formed)
Combustion reactions-Reactions involving the burning of fossil fuels which releases energy for doing work

Student Background Knowledge:

Students do not need to know about chemical reactions in detail. A short introduction will be sufficient. They need to know what a chemical reaction is and how they work on paper in terms of reactants and products. They will need to be introduced to the concept of combustion-burning fuel to release energy.

Teacher Step by Step: A 3-d lesson should insist students do the thinking. Provide time and space for the students to experience the phenomenon and ask questions. The student sheet provided below provides guidance but is only an example of how students might respond.

There are two demonstrations with this lesson to show how chemical reactions work with combustion:

Demonstration #1

1. You can do the demo or watch the video below of the burning of the magnesium strip.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bXh2FlvqA8c>
2. To burn magnesium strip with a bunsen (or alcohol) burner and show students the release of light and heat energy. Demo Procedure:
 1. To burn the magnesium, you need a fairly hot fire, a bunsen burner or an alcohol burner (slower)

2. Cut a piece of the magnesium strip about one inch long
3. Turn on the burner and light
4. Hold the magnesium strip in the flame until it lights. Have safety goggles on. Do not look into the flame
5. Draw the chemical reaction on the board. $2\text{Mg} + \text{O}_2 = 2\text{MgO}$

Demonstration #2

1. Put on safety glasses and wear throughout the experiment
2. Hook up the plastic bunsen burner tubing to the gas nozzle.
3. Run the plastic tubing into a tub of soapy water and turn the nozzle on
4. Blow bubbles into the soapy water until there are many bubbles in a high mound
5. Light a match
6. Drop the match into the bubbles to light on fire

Students design and conduct an experiment:

1. Provide materials for students that will burn in a short amount of time. They need a large jar or beaker and could burn things like marshmallows, crackers, peanuts, paper, candle, cardboard, etc. Students will need a lighter, long tweezers or another method of holding the burning object and pie plate or other non-flammable pans to place the burnt or burning material on. A tub of water for emergency flame stoppage is recommended.
2. Ask students to design and conduct an experiment to demonstrate combustion as a chemical reaction. Explain that the burning must occur over the metal pan and observations of all the products of combustion should be made. You may wish to tell them the jar is to trap the released gases or let them figure that out.
3. Students must wear safety glasses and may only burn small quantities. Encourage different groups to burn different substances.
4. Each group should explain their experiment and findings to the class. Students should see a **pattern** (that all the reactions occurred with similar results).

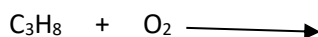
Assessment of Student Learning.

1. What was needed in order to start the reactions that you witnessed today? *Heat energy*
2. How did substances change during the reactions? *Substances were broken down into carbon and gases (water, carbon dioxide specifically)*
3. What kind of energy was produced in these reactions/demonstrations *Heat, Light*

Standardized Test Preparation:

Chemistry of Combustion

1. A strip of magnesium is heated until it begins to burn. Heat and light are released. What evidence does this provide?
 - a. Mass has been conserved.
 - b. A change of phase has occurred.
 - c. New atoms have been formed.
 - d. A chemical change has occurred.*
2. What are the products of this combustion reaction?



Propane Oxygen

- a. Propane, oxygen
- b. Carbon, water
- c. Carbon, hydrogen
- d. Carbon dioxide, water*

3. A burning candle goes out when a jar is placed over it. What other substance is necessary for combustion of the candle?

- a. Wax
- b. Carbon
- c. Water
- d. Oxygen*

Reactants	Products	Energy Change
Propane + Oxygen	Carbon dioxide, water	Heat given off
Liquid Propane	Solid Propane	Heat removed
Propane + water	Propane, water	No energy change

4. What evidence indicates one of the reactions is a chemical reaction?

- a. The propane and oxygen reaction resulted in new products and released energy.*
- b. The liquid propane to solid reaction required heat to be removed, changing the propane.
- c. The propane and water reaction required no energy but a new product was formed.

Extension of lesson and Career Connections:

Extensions can include other combustion reactions such as the or investigating how different fossil fuels burn. A piece of coal takes a very long time to burn but propane burns very quickly.