

Following instructions



Read the following piece of writing.

Experiment: Red and Blue Skies

It is not always easy to believe that all the colors in the sky come from the different way particles in the atmosphere reflect and absorb sunlight. But you can demonstrate it for yourself with this very simple experiment. The effects are quite subtle, and not always easy to see, so you need to conduct the experiment in a very dark room. Fill a straight glass with cold water, then add half a teaspoonful of milk. Now try shining the torch at the glass from different angles and watch how the color of the milky water changes very slightly. Hold the torch close to the glass for a better effect. Add another half-teaspoonful of milk and repeat. Finally, add a full teaspoonful of milk, and try shining the torch at the glass from a variety of different angles.

From *How the Earth Works* by John Farndon

Read through the text again, underlining the actual **instructions**. On a separate sheet of paper, draw a **flow chart** that shows the **instructions** in the correct order.

Try the **experiment** yourself, then make **notes** under these headings.

Equipment/materials needed

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What I did

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What I saw

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What I learned from the experiment

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The activities on this page focus on the instructions for a scientific experiment.
The exercises are designed to give your child practice in formal writing.
Encourage your child to do the actual experiment.



Reporting

Write a brief factual **report** on the experiment Red and Blue Skies.

Remember: Use straightforward statements in the passive voice when writing a **report**. For example, write **the milk is mixed with the water** rather than **I mixed the milk with the water**.

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Do you think this old **saying** is likely to be true?

*Red sky at night, shepherd's delight -
Red sky in the morning, shepherd's warning.*



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In your own words, write an **explanation** of why the sky appears to change color and what causes this. Before you write, try to find out more information. Use **reference books** or the **Internet**. Then compare your findings with the information provided in the previous exercise. Don't forget to say where you got your information from. Begin here, and continue on a separate sheet of paper.

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Check that your child's report is written in a formal style, suitable for a science report and that it is expressed mainly in the passive voice. The explanation should be concise and informative and contain a list of the reference sources.