Student worksheet: The reactivity of Group 2 metals

Introduction

Metals in Group 2 of the Periodic Table are less reactive than those in Group 1. This experiment indicates the relative reactivity of elements within the group.

What to do

1. Fill two test-tubes a quarter full with dilute hydrochloric acid.
2. Into one test-tube drop a small piece of magnesium.
3. Into the other, drop a small piece of calcium.
4. Compare the reactivity of the two metals.
5. Drop another bit of magnesium into the first test-tube and put your thumb over the end.
6. When the pressure can be felt, take your thumb off and test the gas with a lighted splint.
7. Record what happens.

Safety

Wear eye protection.

Questions

1. Which is the more reactive, magnesium or calcium?
2. Write word equations for these reactions.
3. Write formula equations for these reactions.

Credits

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