

Sage and scribe – teacher notes

Education in Chemistry

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Task

- Divide the students into groups of three, numbering them one to three in each group.
- Display the roles slide using it to organise the students and set the scene.
- Give student number one a picture of either a cat or dog. They have to describe the picture to students two and three.
- Student two can only note down what student one says and cannot speak. Student three must try to draw what student one says, but can ask for clarification.
- Set a timer for two minutes. When the time is up, students two and three write down what they think the picture shows.

Pictures

- Print and cut out the pictures (on the next page) and give one picture to student one each group, reminding them to keep the picture hidden and not to give hints about what is shown.
- Tip: prevent groups helping each other by alternating the cat picture and the dog picture between adjacent groups

Rules

- Students two and three cannot see the picture before the activity ends.
- Student one cannot give hints, using words like cat, dog, canine, feline, bark, woof, meow, fur. They can only name components of the picture eg long ears, round head, long tail.
- Student three can only ask questions such as 'can you repeat that?'

Conclusion

- Give the groups about a minute to share their work. Then do a quick class poll of how many student twos and how many student threes got it right.
- Display the conclusion slide. Discuss how it can be hard to identify something unfamiliar by just looking at it.
- It is helpful to look for the presence or absence of specific features such as the examples in this table. In chemistry, we call these features chemical properties.
- When we investigate the chemical properties of an unknown substance we are gathering the information that identifies it.

