
 Safety Notes 
for
Science and Technology for Children™ units

*Plant Growth and Development • Rocks and Minerals • Chemical Tests • Sound
Animal Studies • Land and Water • Electric Circuits • Motion and Design
Microworlds • Ecosystems • Food Chemistry • Floating and Sinking
Experiments with Plants • Measuring Time • Magnets and Motors • The Technology of Paper*

Remember safety! Listen when your teacher tells you safety rules.

1. Never put anything in your mouth in science class, even if it seems like food. Explore with your other senses—touch, smell, sight, hearing.
2. Be careful when you use powders. Try not to make dust because someone might breathe it. When you test to find out what something smells like, use your hand to wave the smell toward your nose.
3. Do not touch your eyes when you are working. There might be something on your hands that should not get in your eyes.
4. Keep your work area as neat as you can. Listen when your teacher tells you how to collect the things you need or how to clean up when you finish.
5. If something gets spilled or broken, tell your teacher. Do not clean up broken or spilled things unless your teacher says it is okay.
6. Use your science materials only for the science lessons. Do not play with things like rubber bands, paper clips, or powders. Someone might get hurt.



Plant Growth and Development

- Like other flowering plants, Wisconsin Fast Plants produce pollen. If you think you have allergies, tell your teacher.

Rocks and Minerals

- Be careful with the nail. Use it only as instructed.
- Mineral specimen C contains lead, a substance that is poisonous. When found in the form of mineral C, the lead does not enter the body just from skin contact. Still, your teacher will want you to wear disposable gloves when you examine mineral C. As an added precaution, wash your hands after you handle mineral C—just in case you later put your hand in your mouth without thinking.

Chemical Tests

- Your teacher will tell you when you need to wear goggles.
- Remember the right way to smell things in science class. Do not stir up dust.
- When you touch the chemicals, put a small amount between your fingers and hold it over or on the tray. Never touch an unknown chemical unless your teacher has told you it is safe.
- You need help from your teacher for the heat test. Tie back long hair and roll up long sleeves when you are working near a candle flame. Keep papers away from the heat station.
- If you or anyone else gets any of the liquids or powders in eyes, nose, or mouth, tell your teacher right away.

Sound

- Except for the disposable straws, do not put any objects in your mouth. Do not share instruments made with straws since that might spread germs.
- Do not put any objects in your ears.
- Be careful when you are testing the pitch of the nails and when you are tightening the strings on your instrument.

Animal Studies

- Remember to keep your work areas as neat as possible to help prevent spills.
- Try not to stir up dust when you are setting up habitats for the animals.
- Remember: Do not put animal food or anything else in your mouth.

Land and Water

- This unit can be messy. Avoid spills and keep work areas as neat as you can.
- Try not to stir up dust when you are working with the soils. Wash soil off your hands after each activity, so that it will not dry your skin.
- Do not pour any soil down a drain. It might clog the pipes.

Electric Circuits

- Do not ever try the activities in this unit with electricity from wall sockets. Use only batteries.
- The batteries should not give you a harmful electrical shock, but the batteries do contain acid that could hurt your skin or damage clothing. If you see a leaky battery, tell your teacher. A leaky battery must be discarded.
- Do not leave a wire connected from one end of a battery to another. This short circuit will create a lot of heat and will run down the battery.
- The thin, nichrome wire that you use for making a filament could cut your finger if you pull it tightly. Also, the filament will be very hot. Do not touch it or let something that could catch fire touch it.
- If your teacher lets you prepare wires, be careful with the wire-cutting and stripping tool.
- Be careful with the bulbs. If they break, they can cut you.

Motion and Design

- Be careful while you build the vehicles. Small parts can pop off and fly through the air.
- Wear goggles when your teacher says to. This is especially important when you work with the propeller and the rubber bands.

Microworlds

- Remember: Do not put anything in your mouth or eyes. If vinegar from washing pennies or from the vinegar eels gets in your eyes, tell your teacher. Your eyes will need to be rinsed with water.
- Do not point the mirror of your microscope straight toward the sun. The light could damage your eyes.
- Wash your hands after working with the onion skin and the organisms.

Ecosystems

- If you help prepare bottles, be careful with hot water, knives, scissors, and hair dryers.
- Try not to stir up dust when you prepare the terrarium.
- Be careful when you mix and apply the "pollution." Tell your teacher if there is a spill.
- Take care not to bump the ecocolumns. They can fall over.

Food Chemistry

- Remember: Even though many of the materials you work with in this unit are common food items, they are now science items. Do not put the food items, powders, or liquids used in this unit in your mouth. If someone swallows any alcohol, let your teacher know right away.
- Let your teacher know if you have any food allergies.
- Be careful when you are breaking up foods for testing. Bits could be tossed through the air. Also, you could poke your finger with the forceps.

Floating and Sinking

- Rinse your hands with fresh water after working with salt water. Wash your hands after working with the clay.
- A lot of water is used in this unit. Take care to avoid spills or clean them up as soon as they occur, so that no one will slip and fall. For the same reason, take care not to let marbles get on the floor.
- If you try some of the Ideas to Explore and use liquids besides water, make sure your teacher or another adult has approved what you are doing.

Experiments with Plants

- Like other flowering plants, Wisconsin Fast Plants produce pollen. If you think you have allergies, tell your teacher.

Measuring Time

- Do not look directly at the sun. It can permanently damage your eyes.
- Be careful when using the pendulum and the clock escapement. Parts could come off the escapement.
- When using the water clocks, be prepared for quick cleanup of spills.

Magnets and Motors

- Do not ever try the activities in this unit with electricity from wall sockets. Use only batteries.
- The batteries should not give you a harmful electrical shock, but the batteries do contain acid that could hurt your skin or damage clothing. If you see a leaky battery, tell your teacher. A leaky battery must be discarded.
- Do not leave a wire connected from one end of a battery to another. This short circuit will create a lot of heat and will run down the battery.
- If your teacher lets you prepare wires, be careful with the wire-cutting and stripping tool.
- Be careful with the bulbs. If they break, they can cut you.
- As always, be careful when working with rubber bands.

The Technology of Paper

- Keep your work area as neat as you can, and clean up spills quickly.
- Make sure that the lids are on tightly when you shake pulp. If you use an eggbeater, keep fingers away.
- Do not point the mirror of your microscope straight toward the sun. The light could damage your eyes.
- Follow instructions when you use additives. Try not to stir up dust from the talc.
- Wash your hands after papermaking activities. The pulp can dry your skin.