

Mini Lab -- Observing Chemical Reactions

Procedure:

1. Place 70.0 ml of 6 M HCl in a 125 ml (or 250 ml) flask.
2. Measure about 15.0 grams of zinc.
3. Blow up a balloon several times to stretch it out.
4. Place the Zn in the flask. Quickly and carefully place the balloon over the mouth of the flask.
5. Observe.
6. When the reaction is complete or when the balloon becomes very large, remove it and tie it off without losing any gas. Give the balloon to your teacher for further experimentation.

Questions:

1. Describe in detail what you saw happening in the flask.
2. What is the specific evidence that a chemical reaction has taken place?
3. What do you think is the identity of the gas produced?
4. Try to write an equation for the reaction that took place.
5. Was there any change in the temperature of the flask and its contents? What implications does this have regarding chemical reactions and energy change?
6. Describe what happened when the balloon was ignited.
7. Write an equation for the reaction that took place when a fire was placed next to the balloon.