



Following Directions

Much of what you learn in science will depend on your ability to read and follow written directions. To be able to perform a laboratory experiment successfully or to complete an activity, you must be able to understand and follow directions. If you do not understand a direction, have your teacher explain it to you. In the laboratory, your safety, as well as the safety of others, may depend on how well you follow directions. When specific safety precautions are included, be sure to read and follow them.

Making a Paper Cup

In this activity, you will follow a set of written instructions for making a paper cup. Complete each step in alphabetical order. Do not skip a step. Answer each numbered question as you come to it. The answer to each question should be “yes.” If you don’t answer “yes” to a question, go back and repeat the previous step or steps. Do not go on to the next step until you can answer “yes.”

Now turn this sheet over and begin constructing your paper cup!

“It’s never too late-in fiction or in life-to revise.” -Nancy Thayer

Directions:

- A. Obtain a blank piece of paper.
- B. Fold the paper diagonally and flatten it.
 - 1. Is the paper in the shape of a triangle?
- C. Place the triangle on the desk in front of you so that the long side is toward you.
- D. From left to right, label the vertices of the triangle A, B, C.
- E. Fold corner C so that it is at the center of side AB.
- F. Flatten the paper.
 - 2. Do you see three triangles?
- G. Starting with the upper left-hand corner and going clockwise, label the vertices of the triangle that have no letters D, E, F.
- H. Fold the corner that was originally labeled A to point E and flatten the paper.
 - 3. Do you see four triangles?
- I. Fold the top single layer of the triangle with B on it down in front as far as it will go and flatten it.
- J. Turn the surface labeled F face down on the table.
- K. Fold the flap that is only a single thickness of paper down in front as far as it will go.
- L. Open up the cup and fill it with water. If it leaks, go back to step A.