

A Flash of Blue Demonstration Worksheet

Discussion Questions

1. Describe what happened in this demonstration. Include all the chemicals used.
2. The reaction that occurred in this demonstration involved several steps. Write a balanced chemical equation for each step listed below.
 - a. Sodium meta-bisulfite produces hydrogen sulfite ions in water
 - b. Potassium iodate decomposes
 - c. Iodate ions react with hydrogen sulfite ions
 - d. Iodide ions react with iodate ions in the presence of water
 - e. Before the iodine combines with starch to produce the color change, it reacts with any excess hydrogen sulfite ions to form iodide ions
3. Define a clock reaction. What part of this reaction triggered the “alarm?”