

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Honors Earth Science Candle Observation

Purpose:

- Make detailed observations of a common object – candle.
- Make both qualitative and quantitative observations of the candle.
- To understand the difference between an observation and an inference.

Procedure:

1. Obtain a birthday candle from the instructor.
2. Make qualitative and quantitative observations of your candle both before and after it has burned for two minutes. Use caution when lighting matches and dispose of them properly.
3. Anchor the candle in a ball of modeling clay.

Qualitative Observations:

Before Burning	During Burning	After Burning

Quantitative Observations:

Measurements	Before Burning	After Burning
Length of candle (cm)		
Length of the wick (cm)		
Diameter of candle (mm)		
Mass of candle (g)		

Using the space below, sketch the candle, flame, and wick. Pay attention to different areas of the candle and structure of the flame.

On separate paper, write a detailed description of your candle using both quantitative and qualitative observations. Be careful to use only observations and not inferences.