

TAPS Plan for Focused Assessment of Science



INIVERSITY		
Topic: Electricity	Year 6 Age 10-11	Title: Bulb brightness
Working Scientifically Plan: Plan a scientific enquiry to answer a		Concept Context Compare variations in how
question, recognising and controlling variables.		electrical components function.
 Assessment Focus Can children create a scientific question which identifies the 'change' and 'measure'? Can children identify control variables to plan a fair test? 		
Provide a mix of basic circuit components and challenge pairs or trios to make a quick simple circuit. Compare and discuss the differences in bulb brightness and how to measure/observe this e.g. light seen through layers of paper, datalogger, observation. Main task: to investigate how they can change the brightness of the bulb choosing from the available equipment (to include different lamps, cells and different thickness/length of high resistance/fuse wires). Each pair/trio to generate a list of variables which could be changed in their circuit and how they will observe/measure the effect of this change. Create a scientific question which identifies the 'change' and 'measure'. Record their plan e.g. question, variables and diagram of test circuit. Carry out and discuss investigations.		
Adapting the activity Support: Planning framework to scaffold. Help to decide how to measure the brightness. Extension: Repeat using a different measurement technique. Choose another question to investigate. Other ideas: Try with motors or buzzers.		
 Questions to support discussion: What factors could affect the bulb brightness? Which variable will you change? (independent variable) Which variable will you measure / observe? (dependent variable) Which variables will you keep the same? (control variables) What is your question? Does it include the 'change' and 'measure'? 		

• Have you found an answer to your question? If yes, what? If not, can you explain why your investigation wasn't able to give you a clear answer?

Assessment Indicators

Not yet met: Can identify what they would like to change but may need support to explain what must be kept the same.

Meeting: Identify a range of factors which may affect the brightness of the bulb and define a succinct scientific question to test, *e.g. What will happen to the (brightness of the bulb), if we change the (length of wire)?* Able to plan a fair test unaided, identifying the different types of variables: what to measure, what to change, what to keep the same

Possible ways of going further: Can identify control variables for a range of investigation questions, e.g. *if we look at wire length we need to keep the voltage the same but if we look at voltage we need to keep the wires the same.* Notes difficulties with the 'life' of the components.

