Name

STUDENT

HANDOUT

Atmosphere in a Jar Data Sheet

|  |
| --- |
| Initial observations: what do you notice about the materials in the jar? |

Group directions:

1. Take a sample from the “atmosphere” jar using your sample cup
2. Separate all the different types of beans in your sample
3. Count the number of each type of bean
4. Record the name of the bean and the number in the data table
5. Add up the total number of beans in your sample, and write it on your data table
6. Write the ratio of the number of beans in each sample to the total
7. Calculate the percentage of each bean in your sample using the formula below:

My group’s sample data:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Material (bean)** | **Number in sample** | **Ratio of number to total** | **Percent of total** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |

Class data:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Material (bean)** | **Number in sample** | **Ratio of number to total** | **Percent of total** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| **Total** |  |  |  |

What gas do you think each bean represents?

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Material (bean)** | **My guess** | **Actual gas** | **Percentage of Earth’s atmosphere** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
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Atmosphere in a Jar Follow-Up Questions

Answer the questions below based on the Atmosphere in a Jar activity.

1. Which estimate of the gases in the atmosphere do you thinks more accurate?

My group’s estimate The class data estimate

Why do you think your choice is more accurate?

1. If the beans in the jar were not mixed up before you took your sample, do you think you could make a good estimate of the gases in the atmosphere? Why or why not?

1. Why is it more useful to know the percentage of each gas in the atmosphere instead of the amount of each gas? Hint: When you take a quiz, it is more useful to know how many questions you got right, or the percentage of questions you got right?