

NUCLEAR CHEMISTRY PhET SIMULATION TASKS

TASK #1 – Nuclear Fission – TEACHER LED

<https://phet.colorado.edu/en/simulation/legacy/nuclear-fission>

Fission: One Nucleus - Fill out the chart based on your observations and our discussions:

1	Which isotope are we starting with?		4	Why did this happen?	
2	What particle am I adding to the Parent isotope?		5	1 Look at the energy graph – explain how the stability is related to the energy	
3	What happens after I add the particle?				

Chain Reaction - Describe what happens when adding a neutron to each situation:

1	1 atom of U-235		6	50 atoms of U-238	
2	25 atoms of U-235		7	100 atoms of U-238	
3	50 atoms of U-235		8	25 atoms of U-235 and 50 atoms of U-238	
4	100 atoms of U-235				
5	1 atom of U-238				

Nuclear Reactor - Fill out the chart based on your observations and our discussions:

1	Which radioactive element is inside the nuclear reactor?		6	Describe what happens when we fire a neutron and the control rods are partially in
2	Which particle am I firing into the reactor?			
3	What part of the reactor am I adjusting in and out?		7	Describe what happens when we fire a neutron and the control rods are all the way OUT
4	What am I graphing and monitoring on the side			
5	Describe what happens when we fire a neutron and the control rods are all the way in		8	Describe how the control rods function as a safety device in a real nuclear power plant