
What is a Pre-lab?

The Pre-lab assignment is designed to prepare ourselves for the actual lab day. The Pre-Lab will allow for a safer, less hectic lab day. Use these sections to write up your own Pre-Labs which your teacher will check for completion. You may use the headers to organize your Pre-Lab. The challenge is to add enough information to make your life easier, but well organized so that it isn't confusing to read or just a copy of the original lab assignment.

1) Basic Information:

This information usually includes: Title for your prelab, your name(s), date of Pre-Lab, date of the experiment, name of the experiment, class.

2) Purpose:

Clearly state the purpose of the lab. This usually takes a few sentences to describe. Use your own words: this will make the experiment more personal and meaningful.

3) Important Concepts:

This can be a set of equations, diagrams, relationships, or facts that will be the backbone of the lab. If you don't know them, you can't perform the lab.

4) Materials:

A summary of materials and equipment that you will need to grab right at the start of the lab. You don't want to be left without equipment or reagents!

DO include quantities, DO include concentrations, DO include chemical formulae
Point form may be used for the materials list.

5) Calculations:

You may wish to prepare any calculations or data tables prior to the lab session. This will ensure that you don't miss any essential data or information that may be needed.

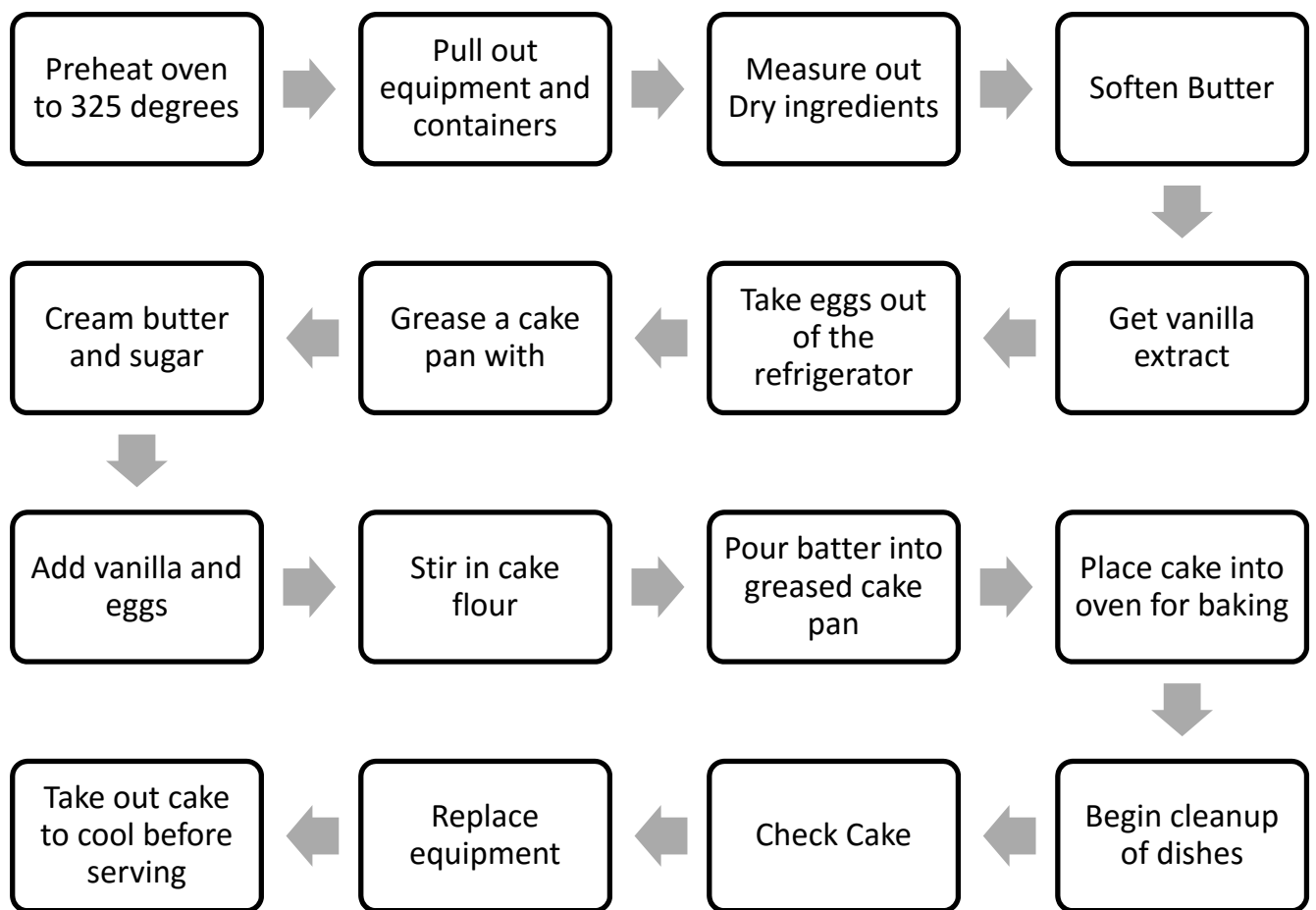
6) Procedure:

A summary on how YOU would perform the experiment. This can mean paraphrasing the original laboratory procedure. Alternatively you may add notes that explain confusing points or add detail where needed.

7) Flow Chart:

A visual representation of what you need to do from start to finish, in order. This will make it harder for you to forget steps or make a mistake.

Ex. Simple procedure flow chart for baking a vanilla pound cake



See: <http://www.wikihow.com/Bake-a-Cake>

8) Prediction of results:

These are based off of your purpose. Think about the end product and the process to get there. Is this achievable?