

Upper 3 learn about useful CO₂



Carbon dioxide is seen as a harmful gas due to its production in combustion reactions and the effect it has on the greenhouse effect and so global warming and climate change. However, it also has many uses and some we would find hard to live without! In the 18th century a Leeds clergyman and scientist called Joseph Priestley invented the first carbonated drink. In 1772 he described how to make fizzy drinks using sulphuric acid and chalk (calcium carbonate). Upper 3 have been looking at this reaction; carbonates react with acids to produce carbon dioxide. The gas can then be bubbled through limewater which turns cloudy. This is how to test for carbon dioxide!

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