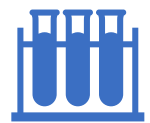


Designing a Course to Cultivate



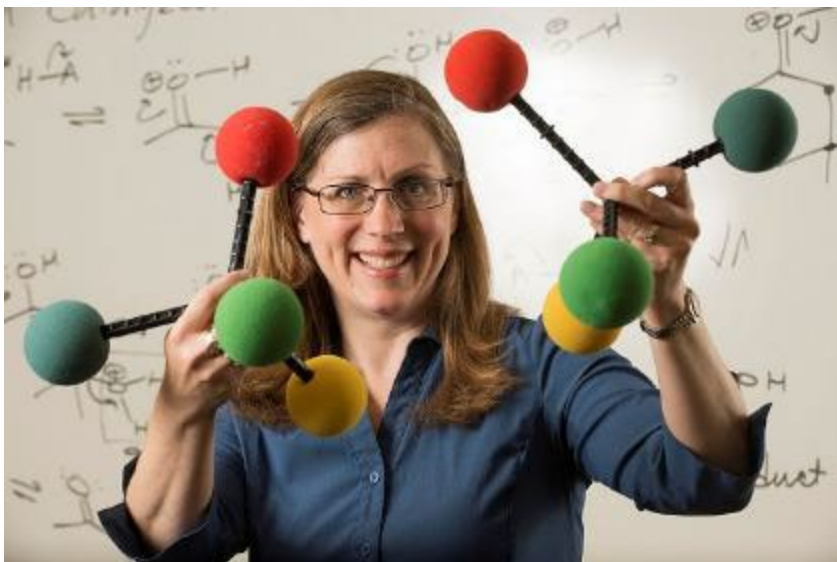
Capable Chemists



Productive Students



Engaged Citizens



Laurie S. Starkey

Cal Poly Pomona

lsstarkey@cpp.edu

BCCE 2026

About me...



Cal Poly Pomona

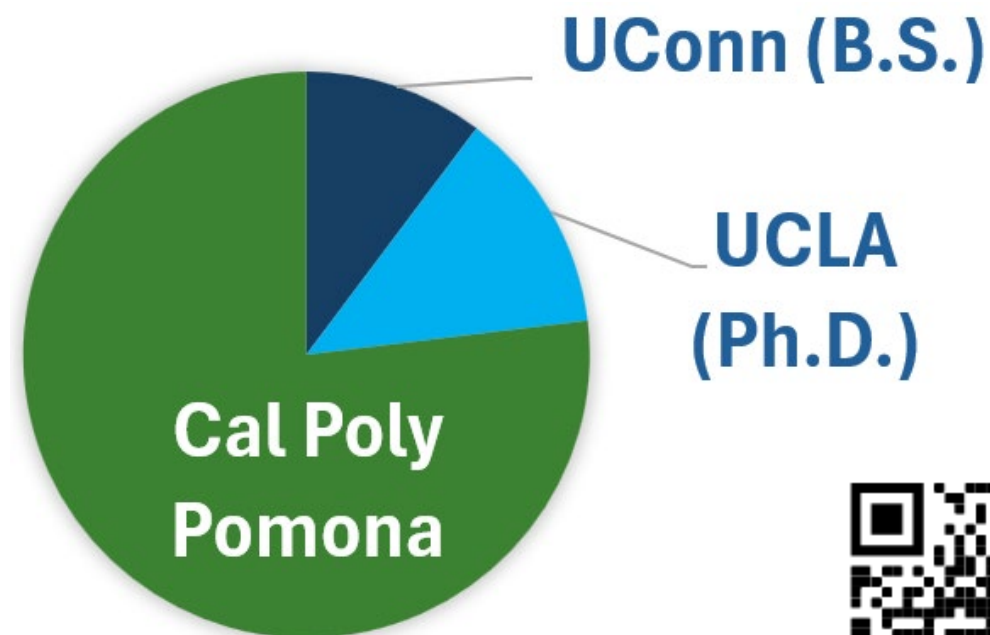
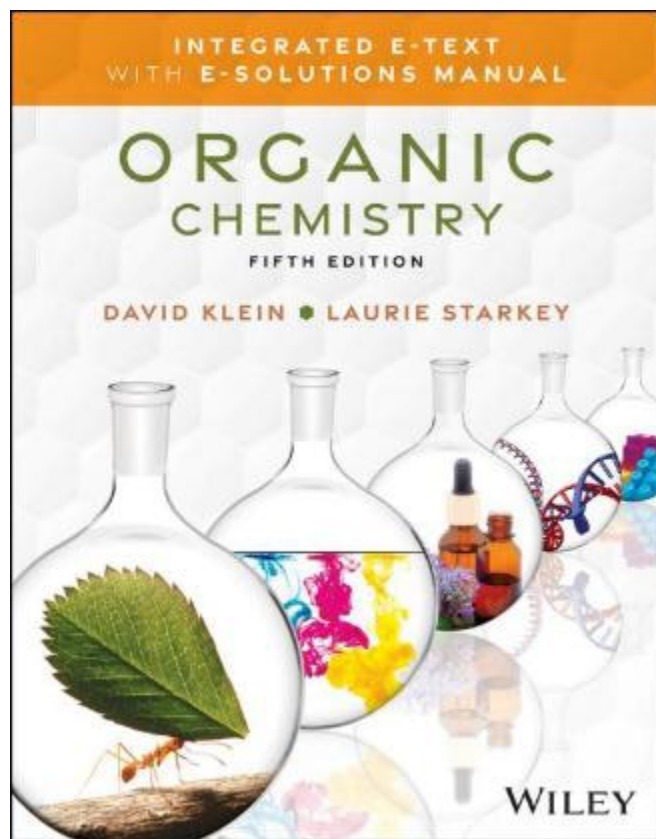
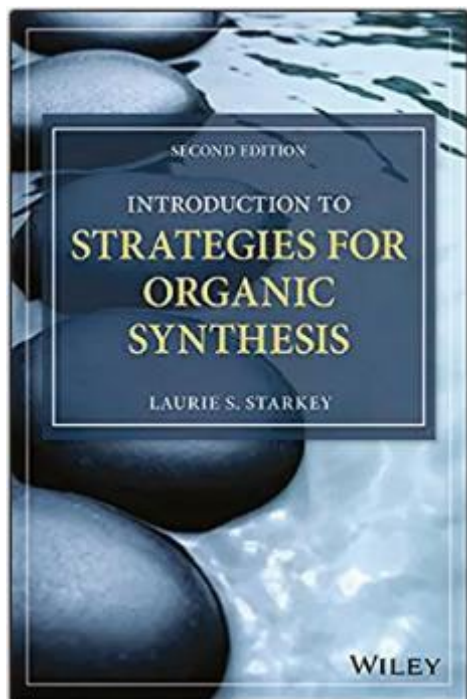
30 miles east of Los Angeles



**Est.
1996**



Felix Winkelkemper Wikimedia cc-by-2.0



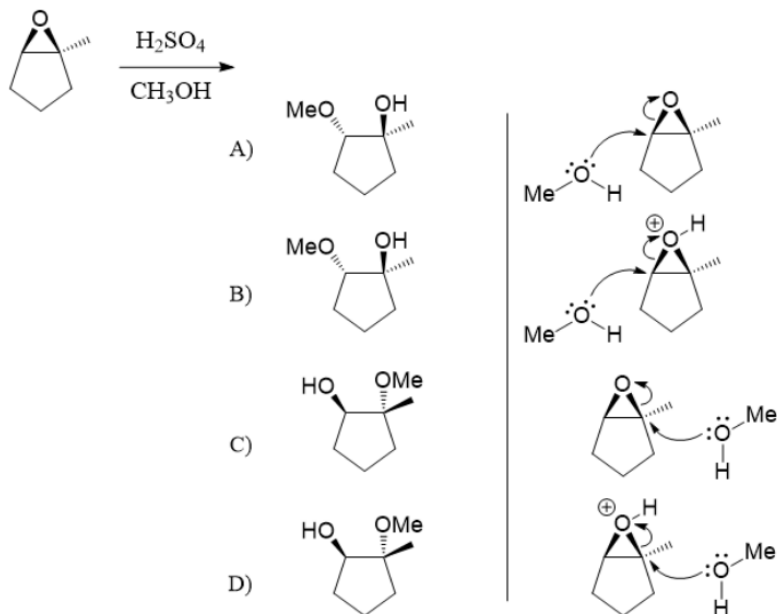
chemistryconnected.com



Flipped Classroom for Active Learning

- Daily worksheets:
Learn by *Doing*
- Model problem solving
- Demonstrate tips/tricks

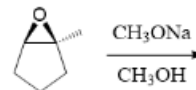
Predict the major product, and select the correct mechanism step.



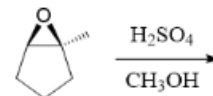
CHM 3150 Organic Chemistry II
Dr. Laurie S. Starkey, Cal Poly Pomona
Chapter 13 Ethers & Epoxides Part 2 – [Practice Problems](#)

For clicker question voting, go to:
<https://polllev.com/lauriestarke263>

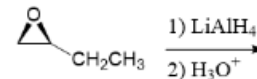
1 Predict the major product, and draw the mechanism.



2 Predict the major product, and draw the mechanism.



3 Predict the major product, and describe the mechanism.



- A) Protonate, attack, deprotonate
- B) Protonate, attack
- C) Deprotonate, attack
- D) Deprotonate, attack, protonate
- E) Attack, protonate

Which is the stronger acid? Explain briefly.



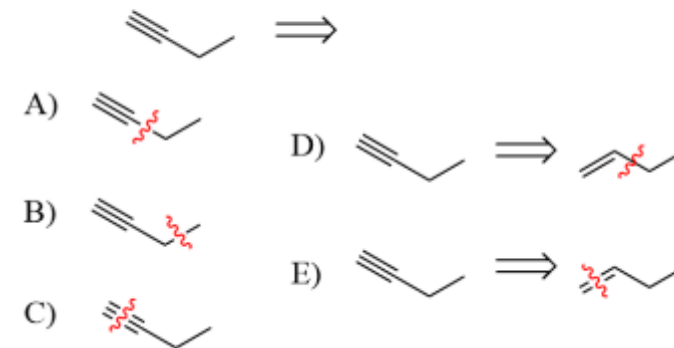
A) H_2O is the stronger acid because HO^- is **more** stable than H_2N^- .

B) H_2O is the stronger acid because HO^- is **less** stable than H_2N^- .

C) NH_3 is the stronger acid because H_2N^- is **more** stable than HO^- .

D) NH_3 is the stronger acid because H_2N^- is **less** stable than HO^- .

Which represents a logical disconnection in the retrosynthesis of the given target molecule?



Flipped Classroom & “Clicker” Questions

- Engaging – when you click, you are invested
- Encourages student participation – discuss with a neighbor (think/pair/share)
- Discuss common mistakes
- Can be used creatively (e.g., study tips)



**Capable
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**Productive
Students**



**Engaged
Citizens**

To prepare for an organic chemistry exam, what is the best use of my time?

A) Watch YouTube videos. *?!!*

*** *** ***
B) Work on textbook problems. *#1*
*** *** ***

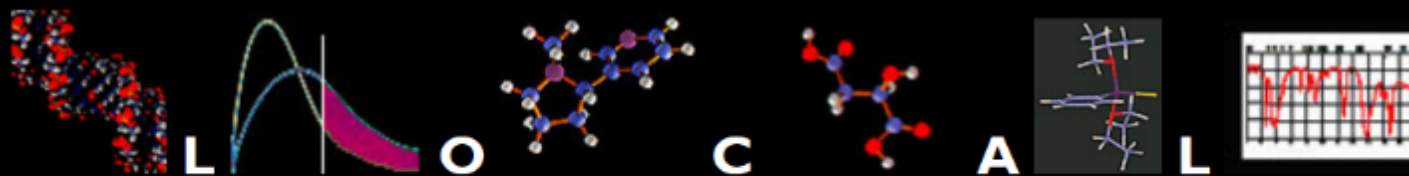
C) Rewrite my notes. *passive*

D) Rewatch the Educator lectures. *passive*

E) Attend office hours. *Got Questions?*

lecture ← *worksheet* ← *textbook problems*

“Clicker” Questions & Worksheets LOCAL



Library for Organic Chemistry Active Learning

Created by [Laurie Starkey](#), Professor of Organic Chemistry at [Cal Poly Pomona](#)
To contribute materials, please contact Laurie (and thank you!) lsstarkey@cpp.edu

Active-Learning Resources can also be found here: organicERs.org | MERLOT.org
see also: [student motivation resources](#)



Clicker Questions:

Bonding/Structure, Acid-Base, Nomenclature Lewis Structures & Line Drawings Resonance & Hybridization/3-D Acid-Base MO Theory Physical Properties Nomenclature Sites of Unsaturation (DU) Conformations of Alkanes & Cyclohexanes	Stereochem, Radicals, Study of Reactions Chirality & Optical Activity R/S, E/Z Nomenclature Stereochemical Relationships Radical Reactions Thermodynamics, Kinetics & Reaction Coordinate Diagrams	Substitution & Elimination Alkene/Alkyne Reactions Substitution Reactions (Sn1/Sn2) Elimination Reactions (E1/E2) Substitution vs. Elimination Dehydration of Alcohols Alkene Additions and Oxidation Alkyne Reactions Synthesis Strategies (Klein Ch. 11)	Alcohols, Ethers & Epoxides Alcohol Reactions Grignard & Hydride Reagents Epoxide & Ether Reactions Alkoxides & Thiols Syntheses Involving Alcohols
Carbonyl Chemistry Aldehydes & Ketones Acetals & Protective Groups	Alpha-Carbon Chemistry Enols & Enolates	Conj. Systems, Aromaticity Conjugated Dienes (Diels-Alder, 1,2/1,4-Addition)	Additional Topics Amine Reactions & Synthesis

Textbook Problems = Formative Assessment

- If you value it, assign points to it... and then *students value it!*
- Encourages self-assessment and use of Solutions Manual
- 25% of course grade based on In-Chapter (SkillBuilders) and/or End-of-Chapter Problems



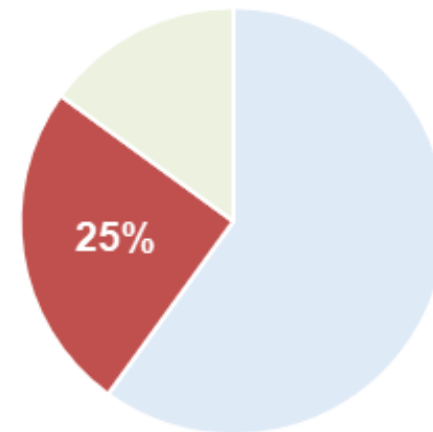
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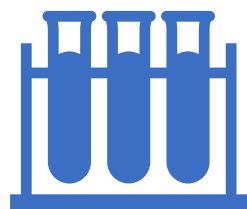


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■ Exams ■ Homework ■ Reflection

Course Credit for Practice Problems



Cultivating
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End-of-Chapter (EOC) Problems

20.35b	20.42ab**	20.58
20.36	20.44 a-h (skip g)	20.59a-e
20.37c-g	20.45a-d	20.60
20.38a-c	20.46 a-h (skip c & e)	20.61a-e*
	20.47	20.62ab
	20.48ab**	20.63
	20.49A-D	20.65
	20.50a-f**	20.70
	20.52ac**	20.71
	20.54**	20.72
	20.55	20.73
	20.56*	20.74



When a fir tree is damaged by an insect, the tree defends itself by producing a compound that mimics an insect hormone, thus disrupting the insect's ability to undergo metamorphosis (i.e., proceed through its developmental stages).

Problem 20.31 (SB 20.2)

Organic Chemistry II CHM 3150, Dr. Laurie S. Starkey, Cal Poly Pomona Ch. 20 (Klein-Starkey): Carb. Acids & Derivatives, Textbook Problems Cover Sheet

Name: _____ Signature: _____

By signing, you are confirming that the work you are submitting is your own.

To earn 10 points course credit, you must write and sign your name above, check one of the boxes below, and submit this page to Gradescope. If you worked problems by hand on paper (or tablet), complete this cover page and include it as the first page of the pdf you submit. Use Genius Scan (or equivalent app) to convert your handwritten homework to a clean, readable pdf: *please crop your pages and apply a Black & White filter.*



What these pears all have in common is the butyl acetate that contributes to their fragrance and flavor.

Handwritten and/or WileyPLUS problems? Please mark the appropriate box below.

☐

hand-written only

☐

hand-written problems & WileyPLUS

☐

WileyPLUS only

For hand-written work, students need to do at least 40 problems for full credit. You are expected to use the SSM to self-grade your hand-written work, and it should not be error-free or without corrections! *Students who simply copy answers from the Solutions Manual and submit them as their own work will not earn credit on this assignment.* In WileyPLUS, there are over 300 points that can be earned (~2 points per problem). **A WileyPLUS score of 80 or higher will earn full homework credit.** Partial homework credit will be given for scores below 80.

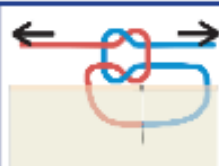
Suggested Ch. 20 problems **Mechanisms* and ***Synthesis* (good to work on by hand)

In-Chapter Problems (includes SkillBuilders 20.1–20.3)

20.1a-f	20.10adf	20.18a-c*	20.26a-c
20.2a-f	20.11 a-l (skip g)	20.19a-c	20.27b**
20.3a-d	20.12 c-h	20.20a-d	20.28*
20.4	20.13a-c*	20.21**	
20.5	20.14*	20.22**	
20.6	20.15a-f	20.23*	
20.7*	20.16ab*	20.24a-d	
20.9ab	20.17a-d	20.25**	



Ants produce the simplest carboxylic acid, formic acid.



If you want to be a surgeon, you will have to learn various suturing techniques, such as how to tie this square knot.

Problem 20.65

Provide a Supportive Learning Environment

How my students feel about Organic Chemistry
(and how they feel about me) matters! Why?

- Emotions drive our attention, memory, learning
- A student who is unmotivated or has a negative view is likely to give up *when* they hit a roadblock

G.P.S. of Motivation (Motivate Lab, [BCCE 2022](#))

- ✓ **G**rowth Mindset
- ✓ **P**urpose & a Relevance
- ✓ **S**ense of Belonging



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See also: Affective Domain, Emotional Intelligence, EQ

Study Habit #1 – Make Flashcards

- Created from YOUR notes/textbook
- No limit to topics (nomenclature...)
- Variety of skills (missing product/reagents/substrate)
- No tech needed, so offers ultimate mobility
- Can remove cards as proficiency improves
- Cards can be shuffled (final exam prep.)
- Future use: stack can grow in Organic II, good review for MCAT, DAT, PCAT, grad school exams...



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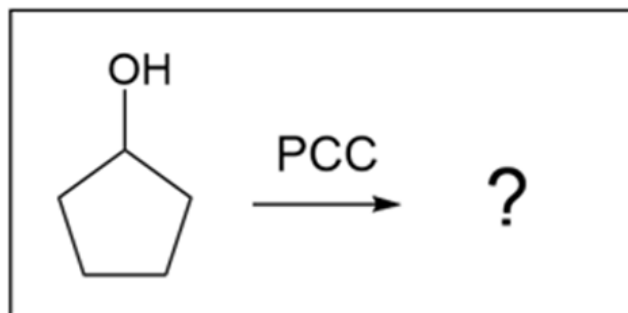


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Students



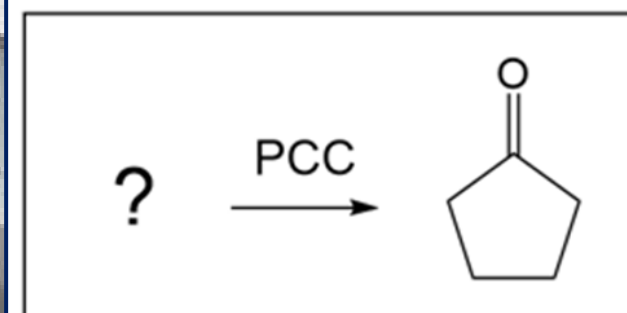
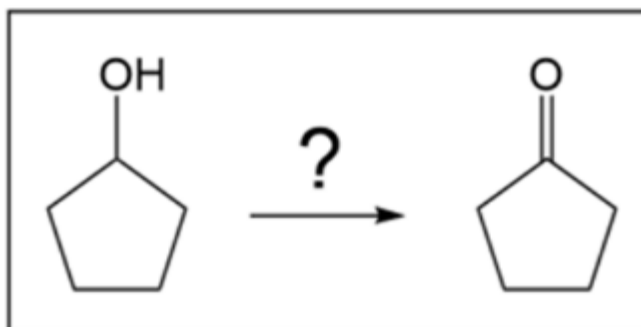
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Every new reaction
creates THREE flashcards



skill = **predict product**

skill = **recall reagents**



skill = **retrosynthesis**

Skill being developed: ~~intuition~~ rapid pattern recognition

Study Habit #2 – Join a Study Group

Organic Learning Community (OLC)

- Self-formed groups of 3-5 students
- Work on o-chem with your group 1 hr/week
- 1 point credit for weekly report w/selfie pic (7 points max. out of 500 total points)
- Opting out won't hurt grade (not announced)
- Positive feedback blew me away! Testimonials



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Study Habit #3 – Metacognitive Reflection

Exam Wrapper Assignments

- Survey given after each midterm exam (x3)
- Students reflect on...
 - ✓ how they prepared
 - ✓ what mistakes they made
 - ✓ how they will prepare differently next time
- 4 points for survey + 4 points for corrections (16 points max. out of 500 total points)
- Students ask LOTS of questions now! (regrade request feature in Gradescope)



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Study Habit #4 – ENGAGE with Textbook

Me, “Textbook problems, textbook problems...”

Student, “What do you mean?”



Me:



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Better to be more explicit: “Try SkillBuilders 7.8 & 7.9”

Also, show the class where to find eBook, TOC, SSM...

Chapter 7
Alkyl Halides: Substitution and Elimination Reactions 329

7.1 Introduction to Substitution and Elimination Reactions 331

7.2 Nomenclature and Uses of Alkyl Halides 332

7.3 The S_N2 Mechanism 336

7.4 S_N2: Nucleophilic Strength 343

7.5 The E2 Mechanism 346

7.6 Stability of Alkenes 348

7.7 E2: Regiochemistry and Stereochemistry 349

7.8 Competing Pathways: S_N2 vs. E2 360

7.9 Unimolecular Reactions: S_N1 and E1 362

7.10 Evaluating Competing Reactions and Predicting the Major Product 371

7.11 Substitution and Elimination

7.1 Introduction to Substitution and Elimination Reactions

7.2 Nomenclature and Uses of Alkyl Halides

7.3 The S_N2 Mechanism
[SkillBuilder 7.1 Drawing the Mechanism and Predicting the Product of an S_N2 Process](#)
[SkillBuilder 7.2 Drawing the Transition State of an S_N2 Reaction](#)

7.4 S_N2: Nucleophilic Strength

7.5 The E2 Mechanism

7.6 Stability of Alkenes

7.7 E2: Regiochemistry and Stereochemistry
[SkillBuilder 7.3 Predicting the Regiochemical Outcome of an S_N2 Reaction](#)
[SkillBuilder 7.4 Predicting the Stereochemical Outcome of an S_N2 Reaction](#)
[SkillBuilder 7.5 Predicting the Product of an E2 Reaction](#)

7.8 Competing Pathways: S_N2 vs. E2

7.9 Unimolecular Reactions: S_N1 and E1
[SkillBuilder 7.6 Drawing the Mechanism and Predicting the Product of an S_N1 Reaction](#)

7.10 Evaluating Competing Reactions and Predicting the Major Product
[SkillBuilder 7.7 Predicting the Products of Substitution and Elimination Reactions](#)

7.11 Substitution and Elimination Reactions with Other Substrates
[SkillBuilder 7.8 Performing a Retrosynthesis and Providing a Synthesis of an Alkene](#)
[SkillBuilder 7.9 Retrosynthesis and Synthesis of an Alkene Target](#)

7.12 Synthesis Strategies

7.13 Solvent Effects in Substitution Reactions

Chapter 27
Synthetic Polymers 1125

Appendix A List of SkillBuilders AP-1

Appendix B List of BioLinks and WorldLinks BM-1

Appendix C Reference Tables for IR and NMR Spectroscopy CM-1

Glossary G-1

Index I-1

eBook

Student Study Guide and Solutions Manual

Title Page SM-i

Copyright SM-i

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK SM-iv

Chapter 1 A Review of General Chemistry: Electrons, Bonds and Molecular Properties SM-1

Chapter 2 Molecular Representations SM-28

SSM

SkillBuilder 1.2 Drawing the Lewis Structure of a Small Molecule

Step 1: Connect the atoms that form the molecule in the skeletal structure.
CH3CHO

Step 2: Connect the hydrogen atoms to the carbon and oxygen atoms.
CH3CHO

Step 3: Determine the total number of valence electrons.
C: 2 × 4 = 8 electrons
O: 1 × 6 = 6 electrons
H: 4 × 1 = 4 electrons
Total: 18 valence electrons

Step 4: Determine how many electrons have already been placed.
of bonds: 4
of electrons: 8

Step 5: Draw the structure below, showing the remaining electrons as lone pairs on the atoms.
CH3CHO

SkillBuilder 1.3 Calculating Formal Charge

Step 1: Determine the appropriate number of valence electrons for the atom.
Nitrogen is in Group 5 of the periodic table, and is expected to have 5 valence electrons.

Step 2: Determine the number of valence electrons in this case.
In this case, the nitrogen atom exhibits only 4 valence electrons.

Step 3: Assign a formal charge to the nitrogen atom.
[NH3+]

SkillBuilder 1.4 Locating Partial Charges



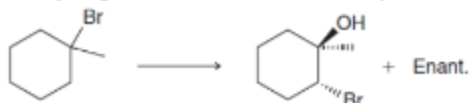
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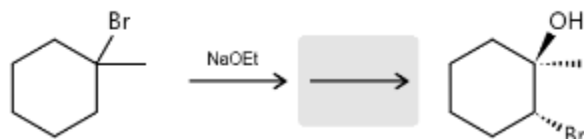
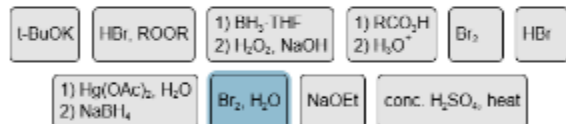
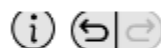
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Demonstrate Online Homework Drawing Tools

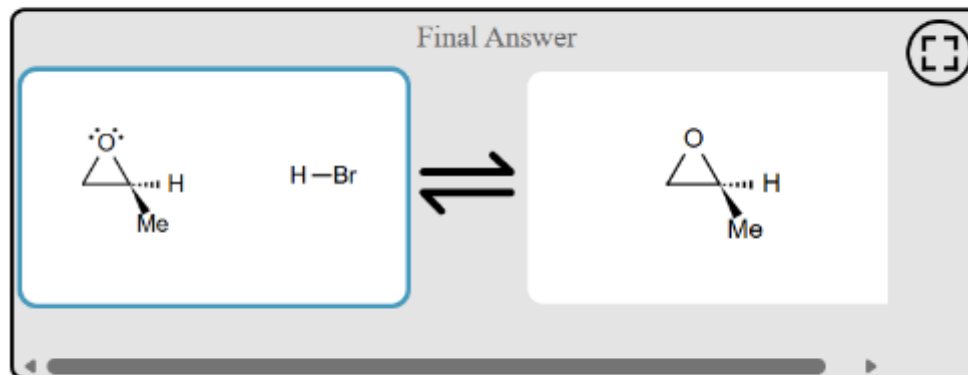
Identify reagents that can be used to accomplish the following transformation:



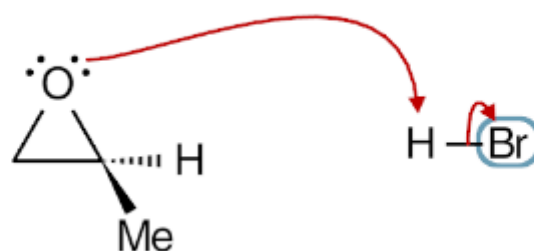
Select the appropriate reagents to achieve the given transformation. There may be more than one correct solution. Click on the arrow and then click on the reagent(s) for the first step, or drag and drop the reagent. To add an additional step to the synthesis, click on a reagent tile. Use the eraser tool to remove a step.



Add curved arrow(s) to draw step 1 of the mechanism. Modify the given drawing of the product as needed to show the intermediate that is formed in this step.



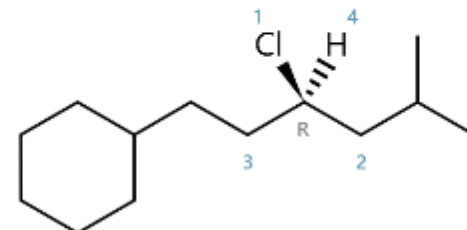
Save



In the drawing given below, assign the priority (1, 2, 3, 4) of each group around each chiral center, and then determine the configuration of each chiral center by adding an R or S label to the carbon atom. You can use the eraser tool to remove any label. Note the following shortcut: press 1, 2, 3, 4, R, or S on the keyboard to add the corresponding label to a selected atom.



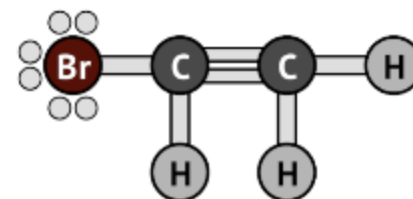
1 2 3 4 R S



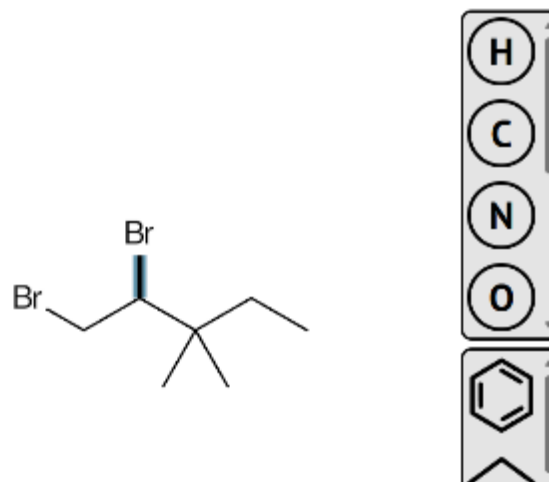
Draw a Lewis structure for the following compound:

CH₂CHBr

To add a bond, click on one atom and drag the cursor to the other atom (repeat this process to make a double bond or a triple bond). To add a lone pair, click on an atom, drag until a lone pair is visible, and then release. For more instructions, click on the button. Note: Bond angles are not relevant when drawing Lewis structures, so they can be ignored for this problem.

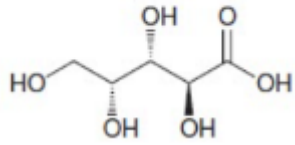


(S)-1,2-dibromo-3,3-dimethylpentane

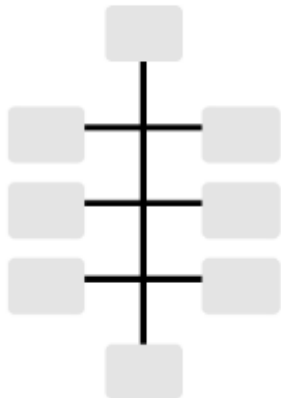
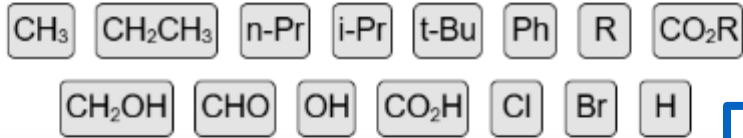
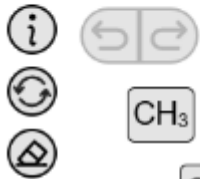


Demonstrate Online Homework Drawing Tools

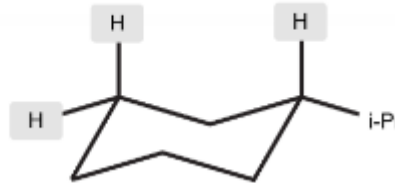
Draw a Fischer projection for the following compound, placing the $-\text{CO}_2\text{H}$ group



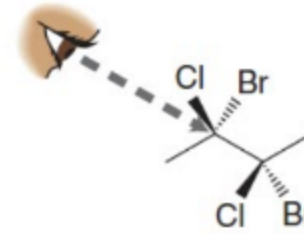
To place the same group in multiple positions at once, shift-click to select multiple boxes. Try using the 3D button to explore your Fischer projection as a three-dimensional molecular model.



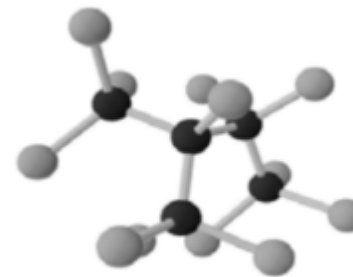
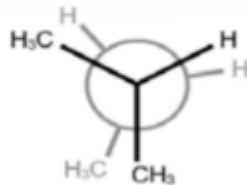
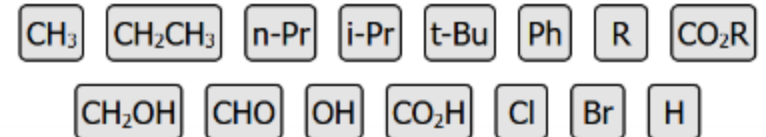
Draw both chair conformations of *cis*-1,3-diisopropylcyclohexane and identify the more stable chair conformation.
Begin by drawing the **MORE STABLE** chair conformation of the compound:



Draw a Newman projection of the following compound as viewed from the angle indicated:



Begin by rotating the front and/or back carbon positions to build the appropriate Newman projection framework (click and drag on any box to reposition it).



Beyond the *Chemistry Student*...

- Future Doctor? Pharmacist? Teacher?
- Future Chemist who doesn't yet know it?!
- Future Brewer? Activist? Senator?
- Future parents? School Board members?
- Consumers, voters making informed decisions.

College experience can be transformative. With faculty mentorship, it can lead to self-discovery.



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Beyond the *Chemistry Student*...



Wisconsin Idea

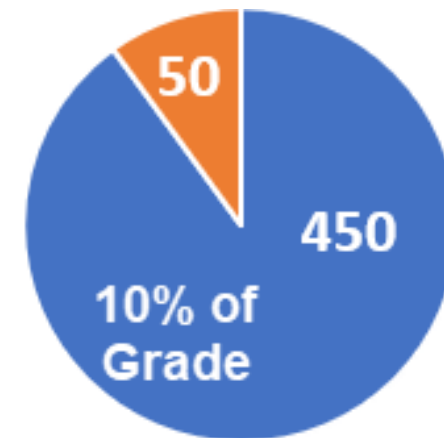
*Education should influence people's lives
beyond the boundaries of the classroom.*



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Weekly “Friday Five” Reflection

- 1) Describe how you spent your time working on Organic Chemistry this past week.
- 2) Describe your plan for working on Organic Chemistry this coming week.
- 3) **The 3rd writing prompt can explore...**



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Careers

**Medicine
& Health**

Earth Day

Natural

**Products
Synthesis**

History

**NCW &
Volunteering**

**Cannabis
Chemistry**



Engaged Citizens

Weekly "Friday Five" Reflection

Throughout history, humans have devised many practical purposes for fragrances: perfumes conceal body odors, essential oils provide relaxing aromatherapy, and pleasant-smelling soaps and shampoos are appealing to use. Plague doctors in the 1600s theorized that miasmas, or the smell of decomposition, was the cause of the spread of the Black Death. To protect themselves while treating the sick, they would place aromatic herbs and flowers in the beaks of their masks to combat the odors of disease and decay.

WorldLinks | Fragrances and Perfumes



Rose fragrance is a complex mixture of organic compounds, including alcohols, aldehydes, and ketones.

It's certainly good advice to "stop and smell the roses" as you go through life. Such a pause benefits your mental health by providing an opportunity for reflection. Smelling roses might also increase our appreciation for organic chemistry, because organic molecules are responsible for most of the odors we encounter each day! Fragrances can have a tremendous impact on our minds and bodies. They can increase our appetite, or they can turn our stomach and make us sick. A certain odor might evoke images of a holiday or a favorite meal, or cause you to recall a childhood memory. In each case, a molecule or, more likely, a complex mixture of molecules is interacting with odor receptors in your nose and sending powerful signals to your brain. In response, an emotional reaction might be triggered, or perhaps your mouth will start watering!

Synthetic fragrances were produced: with the tools of organic synthesis at their disposal, chemists can produce affordable aromas, design novel fragrances, and develop alternatives to products harvested from animal sources. Fragrances are not only used to make perfumes and colognes (and air fresheners and scented candles...), but they are also added to many personal care and household products.

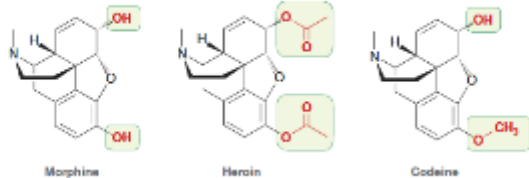
BioLinks | The Opioids: Miraculous and Murderous

For thousands of years, humans have used opium for its pain-relieving, sedative and euphoric effects. The natural substance is obtained from the unripe seed pods of the poppy plant, and it is traditionally smoked by users. Dating back to at least 3400 BC in Mesopotamia, opium was widely traded across the world. Its use is documented throughout history, ranging from religious rituals to medieval medical books to opium dens. Poppies can be found adorning Egyptian, Greek and Roman gods in ancient images and statues. The biologically active component of opium is the compound morphine, named after Morpheus, the Greek god of sleep.

Morphine and similar molecules (such as heroin, codeine, and fentanyl), are members of a drug family called opioids. Molecules in the opioid family bind to opioid receptors in the nervous system and block the transmission of pain signals to the brain. As a result, they are potent analgesics (pain relievers). In addition, opioids are known to act as depressants (causing sedation, constipation, and slower respiratory function), and at high doses they can produce a state of euphoria. Morphine is addictive, so it is primarily used for the short-term treatment of acute pain and for terminally ill patients suffering from extreme pain. Morphine was first isolated from opium in 1803, and by the mid-1800s, it was used heavily to control pain during and after surgical procedures. By the end of the 1800s, the addictive properties of morphine became apparent, which fueled the search for nonaddictive analgesics.

As mentioned in the chapter opener, there are many techniques that scientists employ in the design of new drugs. One such technique is called lead modification, which involves modifying the structure of a compound known to exhibit desirable medicinal properties. The known compound "leads" the way to the development of other similar compounds and is therefore called the lead compound. A story that begins with morphine provides a good example of this process.

In 1925, the structure of morphine was correctly determined. Functioning as a lead compound, the structure of morphine was modified to produce other compounds with analgesic properties. Early modifications focused on replacing the hydroxyl (OH) groups with other functional groups. Examples include heroin and codeine:



Morpheus, the god of sleep and the namesake of morphine, is often depicted holding poppies.

Monene
utas to



Fragrant materials filled the beaks of masks worn by plague doctors.

but also materials obtained from the anal glands of civet cats,



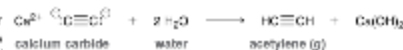
Perfumes use natural and/or synthetic fragrances.

WorldLinks | Organic Chemistry Illuminates Humankind

In the modern world, we can summon light by simply flicking a switch or using an app on our phones. But what did humans use for light before the mid-19th century? Inventions (developed within the past 150 years) of electricity and lightbulbs? Prior to the late 1800s, the only available light on earth was light from the sun and light produced by fire. For over 200,000 years, humans have been generating light by burning organic material. Nearly 40,000 years ago, toward the end of the Ice Age, the inside of caves where we now



Carbide lamps were also used throughout the mining industry in the early 1900s. Compared to candles and oil-burned lamps, the light from the carbide lamp was brighter, and the acetylene fuel was better because it consumed less oxygen and produced no carbon monoxide. Small lamps could be affixed to the front of a cap, and larger lamps were carried by hand. An open flame is dangerous in coal mines where pockets of flammable methane



A carbide lamp has two chambers that are connected by a threaded valve. Calcium carbide is added to the lower chamber, and water is added to the upper chamber. When the valve is partially opened, water from the upper chamber drips onto the calcium carbide and acetylene is produced. The generated acetylene gas is passed through a metal tube, and the stream of gas is ignited as it exits the lamp, lighting a match or a spark from a built-in flint. The size of the flame—and the corresponding brightness of the lamp—can be modified by controlling the rate of water entering the lower chamber. The portable nature of the lamp made it suitable for use as a headlight for bicycles around the turn of the 20th century and for early automobiles.



The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) for calcium carbide has the following label elements in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. Signal word: Danger



Pictograms:
Hazard Statements:

- In contact with water releases flammable gases, which may ignite spontaneously
- Causes skin irritation
- Causes serious eye damage
- May cause respiratory irritation

WorldLinks | The Chemistry of Temporary and Permanent Tattoos

Tattoos are found in many cultures worldwide. Many of these tattoos have cultural, social, or religious significance. They may be given as a rite of passage into adulthood or as part of a religious ritual, or they may indicate social status or warrior class. Tattoos consist of pigments which are applied on or below the top layer of skin. Pigments that are absorbed in the top layer of the skin



The tattoo design is first transferred to the skin, and then it is traced over with needles covered in ink.

(the epidermis) are not permanent and gradually fade as the outer skin cells slough off. Pigments that are injected deeper into the skin (the dermis) become permanently embedded there.

The earliest known tattoos date back to ~3250 BC, on a glacier mummy (called Ötzi) that was found in the Italian Alps. The mummified body of Ötzi revealed 61 tattoos. The lines that were tattooed on his lower legs, lower back, wrist, and torso may have been applied for therapeutic purposes. Tattoos have been found on female mummies in Egypt dating to ~1300 BC. These ancient tattoos were made



Nanaia Mahuta served as New Zealand's Minister of Foreign Affairs from

They can even be used as permanent make-up on the eyes and lips. Tattooing also serves an important function when it is used to restore features that were lost to surgery, injury or illness. After a reconstructive breast surgery, for example, the mental well-being of the patient can be improved when a tattoo artist adds a realistic-looking areola. Likewise, for someone missing a belly button or a fingernail, getting a tattoo can restore a sense of wholeness.

Let's take a look at some of the organic compounds used in tattoo art. Henna dye imparts a reddish-brown color when applied to hair or skin, and it has been used for thousands of years. The leaves and stems of the henna plant contain lawsone, an organic compound that undergoes a chemical reaction with keratin, a protein found in hair and skin. After a design is drawn on the skin using henna, the henna reacts with the skin's keratin. This reaction causes the skin to be stained, and the applied design becomes a temporary tattoo that lasts for up to 6 weeks. To make a black tattoo, other compounds are added to the henna, such



An Indian wedding tradition is to apply intricate Mehndi (henna) designs to the bride's hands, as a way to bestow good luck to the marriage.

Weekly “Friday Five” Reflection



Engaged
Citizens

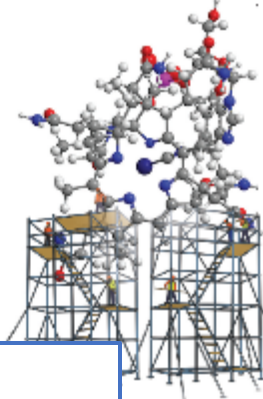
11.7 Natural Product Synthesis



In a steam distillation, the essential oil of a plant is isolated as it co-distills with water.

“There is no denying (nor should there be any need to deny) that the sheer sense of challenge posed by a complex molecular target serves to stimulate the creative impulses of the synthetic chemist.” Samuel J. Danishefsky (Columbia University)

Many significant synthetic achievements have been in the area of *natural product synthesis*. Compounds made by nature are often attractive targets for synthesis because they are likely to be biologically active. For thousands of years, humans have used herbal remedies to alleviate pain, wounds and cure various ailments. Therefore, it makes sense to search for compounds that might have antibiotic properties. *Natural product chemists* do exactly that—they gather samples of plants, animals, and microorganisms and isolate the organic components that are present. Volatile, fragrant components such as terpenes, might be isolated using extraction techniques that can be used to isolate other compounds. The search for interesting organic compounds they can also be found in sea creatures and microorganisms. Once organic compounds are isolated, their structures are determined using a variety of techniques. In some cases, the three-dimensional structure of a molecule can be determined by how the crystal interacts with X-rays; this powerful technique is called X-ray crystallography. Any novel compounds that are identified can then be synthesized.

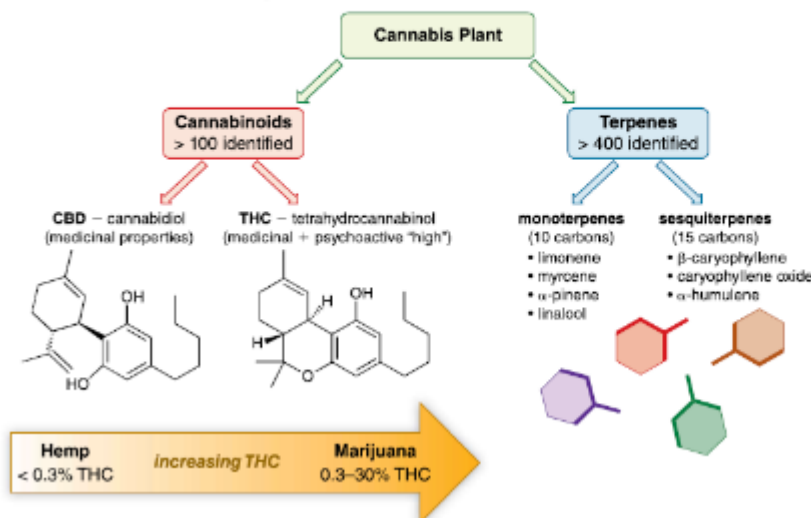


BioLinks Terpenes and the Chemistry of Cannabis

Have you ever felt energized and clear-headed after a walk through a pine forest? Or perhaps you have enjoyed a good night's sleep after having a relaxing bath with lavender bath salts? If so, you have had some first-hand experience interacting with terpenes. Earlier in the chapter we saw a few examples of terpenes that are found in essential oils, and in this BioLink we will learn more about the chemistry of terpenes.

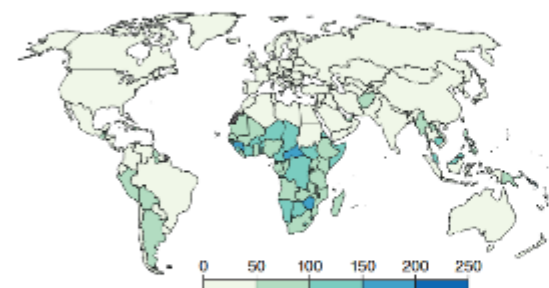


Cannabis flowers are covered with tiny hairs (called trichomes) that secrete a sticky resin, rich in organic compounds.

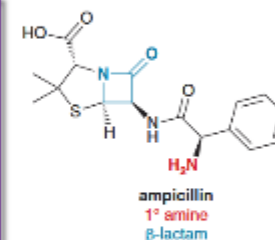


WorldLinks Saving Lives with Azo Dyes

Pneumonia is one of the most common causes of death worldwide, and it kills more children than any other infectious disease. Every year, pneumonia takes the lives of over 650,000 children under the age of five. Antibiotics are a relatively cheap and effective treatment because most cases of pneumonia are caused by bacteria. In the United States, most children have access to healthcare and effective β -lactam antibiotics such as amoxicillin and ampicillin, so pneumonia is not a leading cause of death. Children living in impoverished parts of the world, however, are much more likely to die from pneumonia.



The estimated annual death rate from pneumonia and other lower respiratory tract infections per 100,000 people.



The reason low-income countries have higher death rates is in part that inadequate healthcare infrastructure hampers the diagnosis and treatment of pneumonia. But the reality behind the inequality is far more complex. Other causes include lower prevalence of breastfeeding, environmental pollution, secondhand smoke, and overcrowded living spaces.

Another challenge in treating deadly diseases in developing countries is the presence of substandard or falsified drugs in the supply chain. In 2017, the World Health Organization reviewed over 100 papers about the quality of commercially available

Weekly “Friday Five” Reflection



Engaged
Citizens

CCEW 2026 Trees and Forests: Into the Woods with Chemistry!

Find educational resources for this year's Chemists Celebrate Earth Week theme and other materials for your event, including outreach activities, activities, articles, and videos.



Elementary (K-5) Resources

- [Sunshine for Life](#)

Students will use role-play and

Middle School (6-8) Resources

- [Investigating Photosynthesis](#)

Students will analyze evidence to understand the process of photosynthesis.

High School (9-12) Resources

- [Sustainable Energy Evaluation](#)
- Students will compare the pros and cons of a sustainable resource, research the cost and benefits of the resource, and



WorldLinks Organic Chemistry as a Second Language

At this point in the course, you may be starting to appreciate the title of the popular workbook, “Organic Chemistry as a Second Language.” The volume of vocabulary in Chapter 5 can be overwhelming—chiral, achiral, enantiomer, diastereomer, meso, optically active, levorotatory, dextrorotatory, *R/S*, *cis/trans*—and there is still more to come! It is very much like a foreign language. At the same time, it is critical that you learn the language because that is how we communicate. We will be using this vocabulary again and again in future chapters and throughout the entire year of the organic chemistry course. To become fluent in a foreign language, you must hear the language and speak it. We must hear the language and speak our new vocabulary! To become fluent in a foreign language, we must do the same. Try making flashcards for each word you encounter, and say the word out loud as you study. Working with a partner is a great way to get practice talking out loud. This activity provides an opportunity for listening and speaking around chemistry. Using a variety of methods, including writing, speaking and listening—learning because we are engaging different parts of our brain.

Students who read English and use American Sign Language (ASL) to communicate. ASL interpreters for science classes often have a hard time keeping up when they have to spell out unfamiliar words such as s-t-e-r-e-o-i-s-o-m-e-r. Spelling out words also disrupts the flow of the lecture for the learner. There is a growing need for signs that represent scientific terms, but the development process is a slow one. New signs must follow the linguistic rules of ASL, and they need to consider the context in which the term is used. The word “molecule” means different



2025 The Hidden Life of Spices

Find educational resources for this year's National Chemistry Week theme and other materials for your event, including outreach activities, articles, and videos.



and identify how chemistry plays an essential role in spices. Learn more about chemical properties that make up how we perceive spices. Spices are mixtures of chemicals, with some notable chemicals involved, including capsaicin (makes peppers spicy), myristicin (makes smell and taste of nutmeg), and many more. The structural formulas of these chemicals affect how spices taste and smell, while also allowing them to be used as fabric dyes, medicines, and much more!

Celebrating Chemistry (Ages 9-12)



Middle School (Ages 11-13)

From Middle School Chemistry

- [Molecules in Motion](#)
Add food coloring to hot and cold water to compare the rate of mixing.
- [Temperature Affects Density](#)
Use food coloring to find out whether hot water will sink or float when layered on top of cold water.



Thank you!



Any Questions?



lsstarkey@cpp.edu

O-Chem I
[Syllabus](#)



Organic Chem Teaching Resources
chemistryconnected.com

O-Chem I
[Exam Wrapper](#)

