APES- Air Pollution & Acid Rain Experiment

During this experiment you will be performing the following reactions:

NaHCO₂ + HCl
$$\rightarrow$$
 Na⁺ + Cl⁻ + H₂O + **CO**₂
NaHSO₂ + HCl \rightarrow Na⁺ + Cl⁻ + H₂O + **SO**₂
NaNO₂ + HCl \rightarrow Na⁺ + Cl⁻ + H₂O + **NO**₂

- 1. Based on what you know from this unit, which of these reactions relates to the following:
 - a. industrial smog
- b. photochemical smog
- c. acidification of water
- 2. Which reaction will cause the biggest change in pH?

Procedure

- 1. Collect the materials for your team.
- 2. Rinse the pH probe with distilled water and place it into the beaker of water (20mL)
- 3. Arrange the plastic tubing so that it goes into the water.
- 4. Place the 4g of NaHCO₂ (sodium bicarbonate) into the test tube. Pipet 5mL of HCl into the test tube and quickly close with the stopper. Make sure that the tubing is still underwater.
- 5. Record your pH for about 200 seconds. Record your results.
- 6. Dump out the test tube and the beaker. Rinse all of your supplies with tap water.
- 7. Repeat steps 2-6 for the other two chemicals (NaHSO₂ and NaNO₂)

Data

Gas	Final pH (200 seconds)	Initial pH (0 seconds)	Change in pH due to dissolved gasses
Carbon dioxide			
Sulfur dioxide			
Nitrogen dioxide			

Conclusion Questions

- 1. Was your hypothesis supported? Explain why or why not.
- 2. What were the constants, the control, the independent variable, and the dependent variable of this experiment?
- 3. What ion causes the pH to change?
- 4. What are the primary anthropogenic sources of each of the gasses?
- 5. What are some ways that acid precipitation can be treated?