

Salsa Lab Worksheet

Names:

In this lab, you and your research team will design a salsa recipe using the ingredients available. Each group will be given a specific chili pepper that they must include in their recipe.

Your recipe must meet the following criteria:

- **Your salsa must contain 5 grams of the assigned chili pepper**
 - **The total weight of your salsa must be exactly 250 grams**
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Step 1 - Group Roles

Decide which member of your team will fulfill each role. There are 4 different research positions: **Team Captain, Skeptic, Technician, Data Analyst**. You must have at least one member for each role.

Write your team member's name on the line next to their role.

Team Captain: _____

- The group's main point of contact with the teacher when there are questions.
- Can leave the table to gather materials and tools from the teacher.
- Makes sure members are staying on task.

Skeptic: _____

- Asks team members to clarify their ideas.
- Helps the team consider "How can we do this better?"
- Makes sure all team members are heard and listened to.

Technician: _____

- The only team member allowed to handle the chili pepper.
- The only member allowed to use cooking tools (knives, blenders, cutters, etc.)
- **Must wear personal protective equipment (PPE)**

Data Analyst: _____

- Gathers and writes down experimental data
 - Keeps research papers tidy and organized.
 - Communicates major findings with other groups.
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Step 2 - Get to Know Your Pepper

Read the information card at your table about the chili pepper you'll be working with. When the **skeptic** has confirmed all members of the group understand the background information, the **team captain** can let the teacher know that your group is ready to handle the pepper. Remember, only a **technician** wearing PPE can handle the pepper.

Salsa Lab Worksheet

Names:

Sketch your sample pepper in the box below. Include cross sections, labels, and descriptions of what you notice and wonder.



Step 3 - Design Your Recipe

List all the ingredients you will need for your recipe. When you and your team have agreed on a recipe, your **team captain** can gather the materials and ingredients needed. Your salsa must weigh approximately 250 grams and contain exactly 5 grams of your sample pepper. (Hint: Feel free to ask how much individual ingredients weigh.)

Ingredient	Weight (grams)

Total Weight: 250 grams

Step 4 - Create your Salsa

Assemble your ingredients to make your salsa. Write your assembly process below:

Salsa Lab Worksheet

Names:

Step 5 - Taste

Sample the fruits of your labor and share it with others. If your sample pepper is particularly hot, you don't have to eat it. **Do what is comfortable for you.** As people taste your salsa, have them rate the spiciness on a scale of 1-10. Record their responses and present the data below by making a table, chart, or graph.

Step 6 - Member Evaluation

As a group, decide how well each member of your group performed their role on a scale of 1-5. Give reasons and examples to justify your scores.

Team Member	Role	Score	Explanation