

STAC AI Prompt to Generate a Phenomenon & Explanation for a Sensemaking Pathway Classroom Activity

You are helping me design a science sensemaking activity, not a lesson explanation.

Content area: [insert topic, e.g., forces and motion, ecosystems, chemical reactions]

Grade band: [elementary / middle / high school]

Task:

1. Generate a real-world, observable phenomenon that students could reasonably notice in everyday life or through a simple classroom setup.
 - The phenomenon should be describable in 1–2 sentences
 - Do not explain why it happens
2. Generate a student-facing explanation of the phenomenon that:
 - Sounds plausible and confident
 - Includes 2–4 claims
 - Is partially correct but incomplete, oversimplified, or missing key mechanisms
 - Does NOT include technical vocabulary that would shut down student reasoning

Important constraints:

- Do NOT provide a fully correct or expert explanation
- Do NOT include diagrams, data, or step-by-step reasoning
- The explanation should be good enough that students must decide what to accept, revise, or question

The output should include only:

- A section labeled Phenomenon
- A section labeled Explanation