



Time Needed

1 class period

Materials

- This article.
- The article, “The GLAS Is Half Full,” from the Climate Change edition of the *Natural Inquirer*. You may download this article at <http://www.naturalinquirer.org/satellites-and-changing-tropical-forests-a-109.html> or order the Climate Change edition from <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>.
- Graphic organizers on pages 66-67.

In this FACTivity, you will answer the question, “What are the similarities and differences of two recent studies of carbon storage in

tropical forests?” It is your job to identify how these studies are alike and how they are different.

The method you will use to answer this question is: Read “Beam Me Down, Scotty.” Then read “The GLAS Is Half Full” from “Thinking About the Environment” through the “Discussion” section. You do not need to do the Reflection Sections.

Now, compare and contrast “Beam Me Down, Scotty” with “The GLAS Is Half Full” by completing the first graphic organizer on page 67. After you have completed the graphic organizer, hold a class discussion about your findings. Then, summarize your findings by completing the second graphic organizer below.

Graphic Organizer: Summarize

What are three differences between these two studies?	
What are three similarities between these two studies?	
Write a research question that all of the scientists in these two studies could answer together.	

Graphic organizer: Compare and contrast the two studies.

	Beam Me Down, Scotty	The GLAS Is Half Full
What question did the scientists want to answer?		
How was carbon involved in the research?		
Name four characteristics of the land being studied.		
What was the role of in-person information collection?		
How were Landsat photographs used?		
How was LiDAR used? (GLAS is a type of LiDAR)		
What did the scientists conclude about the use of technology to collect information?		