



Lesson Plan



Science Skills: Communication, Inquiry

National Science Education Standards:
Abilities Necessary To Do Scientific Inquiry,
Understanding About Scientific Inquiry, Science
as a Human Endeavor

Note: The following is a generic lesson plan
that you can use with any *Natural Inquirer*
article.

Time Needed: 55-minute class period

Materials needed for each student:

- A *Natural Inquirer* article.
- A copy of the Food for Soil
Graphic Organizer
- Pencil.

In this lesson, students will increase their reading comprehension, organizational skills, critical thinking, and ability to explain through the use of a graphic organizer. The goal is to have students organize their thoughts in a visual way by using the graphic organizer. This process should help them develop a better comprehension of the *Natural Inquirer* article they have read.

Have students either pair off or separate into groups and read the *Natural Inquirer* article assigned.

Tell students that their job is to read through the *Natural Inquirer* article once, and after the initial read-through, they are to go back over the article collaboratively and place information from the article in the graphic organizer box for each section of the *Natural Inquirer* article.

Allow 20–25 minutes for an initial read-through. Notify the class that they can begin their collaborations. Allow an additional 15–20 minutes for the groups to finish filling in the graphic organizer.

After all groups have finished completing their graphic organizers, facilitate a classroom discussion and share some of the students' results from using the organizer.

Food for the Soil Graphic Organizer



Text Read	Key Phrases or Words From the Text	Saying It in Your Own Words
Thinking About Science		
Thinking About the Environment		
Introduction		
Method		
Findings		
Discussion		

Reflection: How did this graphic organizer help you understand the text better? _____

Source: *Reading Strategies For The Content Areas, Volume 2: An ASCD Action Tool*, (pp. 323-326), by Sue Beers, Lou Howell & ASCD, Alexandria, VA: Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development. ©2010 by ASCD. Reprinted with permission. Learn more about ASCD at <http://www.ascd.org>.