



Natural Inquirer Lesson Plan “Goldfinch and the Three Scales”



Time Needed: 1 week

Grade Level: 6th-8th (although this activity can be adapted for other grade levels)

Materials Needed:

- Copies of the Olympic edition of the *Natural Inquirer*
- Science journals/ notebooks
- Pencils
- Poster board
- Markers
- Magazines
- Computer access (optional)
- Books and other resources on invasive species



Procedure:

- 1) As an introductory activity, read aloud the “Thinking about Environment” section (on page 30) to the class.
- 2) As you read this section, students should jot down as many who, what, when, where, and why questions that they can think of during this time.
- 3) Have students write their questions on the board.
- 4) Talk about native and nonnative species and introduce the concept of invasive species.
- 5) Have students read the rest of the article to see if the article answers some of their questions and find out the role of native and nonnative species.
- 6) After students have read the article, hold a class discussion about what they learned about the native and nonnative species. Have students apply this information to the concept of an invasive species. (In this article, invasive species are referred to as nonnative species.)
- 7) Have students (in pairs or small groups) research some examples of invasive species in your area.
- 8) Have students create a pamphlet for the community on one of the invasive species. Students should describe where the invasive species is found, how it spreads, how to control the spread of it, and what it looks like.

Assessment: Students will present their pamphlets to the class and display them on a bulletin board in the school or community. Students can be assessed on presentation and on the pamphlet they create.

Optional: Have students engage in letter writing campaign to a copy center to ask for donations to make copies of their brochures so that they can distribute them to the community.