

Lesson Plan



Note: This lesson plan can be used with any *Natural Inquirer* monograph or article.

Time Needed

Two class periods

Materials (for each student or group of students)

- *Natural Inquirer* monograph or article
- Blank paper
- Writing utensil

In this lesson plan, students will write sentences or short paragraphs about the article using 15-20 letters of the alphabet.

For example, in “Batter Up,” if students select A, B, and C, they might write:

A: Ash trees: Many baseball bats are made from ash trees. Ash trees are facing two threats. These threats are climate change and the emerald ash borer, an invasive insect from Asia.

B: Baseball bats: Wooden baseball bats are used in Major League Baseball. Wooden bats can break when batters hit the ball. Scientists study the breaks in baseball bats so that bat construction can be improved.

C: Compare: Scientists compare the strength and durability of bats made from different species of trees with bats made from ash trees.

Methods:

Day One

Explain the activity to your students.

Students will read the article from the beginning through the Findings, including the Reflection Section. As they read, ask students to highlight or make note of interesting or important words.

You may want to hold a class discussion about the article to check student understanding.

Day Two

Complete a brief review of the article’s content.

Have students write the alphabet in a vertical column on the left side of their blank piece of paper, leaving 3 lines per letter.

When students are finished writing the alphabet, ask them to identify interesting or important words in the article. In particular, students should try to find 15-20 words from the alphabet that they can use in sentences. They should write up to 3 sentences using each word appropriately in the article’s context. If necessary, use the examples from the beginning of this lesson plan to demonstrate.

Have students share their sentences. To make this more fun, put the alphabet letters in a bowl and randomly draw them, having students share their sentences for the letter as it is drawn.