

Lesson Plan



Note: This lesson plan should be used with the article "The Land of Times" from the Animals and Plants of the Southwestern United States *Investi-gator* (<http://www.naturalinquirer.org/Understanding-Land-Grants-in-New-Mexico-a-141.html>).

Time Needed:

1 class period

Materials (for each student or group of students):

- "The Lands of Time" from the Animals and Plants of the Southwestern United States *Investi-gator* (<http://www.naturalinquirer.org/Understanding-Land-Grants-in-New-Mexico-a-141.html>)
- Computer

In this lesson, students learn about mistakes and the importance of acknowledging and correcting those mistakes.

Methods:

Prep

Educators should read "The Lands of Time" article fully, as well as the background information provided in this lesson plan.

Day One

Introduce *Natural Inquirer* and the concept of scientific journals. Scientists write scientific articles to share their research with the public and their colleagues in the science field. *Natural Inquirer* articles are written for students, but they are based on content directly from real scientific articles.

Scientific articles must be as accurate as possible. However, people sometimes make mistakes, including scientists. Poll the class by asking if anyone has ever made a mistake.

While some mistakes can have bad consequences, most mistakes do not. When someone makes a mistake, they should realize that mistakes happen. Mistakes should not stop people from moving forward. Admitting that you've made a mistake and apologizing for it is a positive first step. Doing what

you can to correct the mistake is another positive step.

One of the editors of "The Lands of Time" article made a mistake. The error was a date noted within the article. Task students with identifying the dates noted in the article and ask them to conduct research to find which date is incorrect.

Note: The incorrect information was that Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1810. In fact, the Mexican War of Independence was begun in 1810, finally winning its independence from Spain in 1821.

Hold a class discussion about why it's important to correct errors, especially when the public will be reading the information.