

EDUCATOR RESOURCES

NOTE TO TEACHERS

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The *Natural Inquirer* is an integrated science education journal for students aged 11-14. In the United States where the journal was first published, the *Natural Inquirer* presents research from scientists working in the United States Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. This edition of the *Natural Inquirer* presents the results of a worldwide effort to understand the world's forests, organized by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, or FAO. The report from which this *Natural Inquirer* is written is the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. It contains information from 233 countries and territories around the world.

You can access the FAO report at:

<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/fra2010/en/>

This journal is organized into 5 Inquiries. Each Inquiry presents a category of findings from the Global Forest Resources Assessment 2010. Each Inquiry builds on the previous Inquiry's information, and each should be considered a separate lesson. A lesson plan for each section and Inquiry follows this "Note to Teachers."

The educational concepts, which immediately follow the "Reflection Section Answer Guide," summarize suggested key learning objectives for the journal.

To be most effective, the Inquiries should be presented in the order outlined in the journal. At the beginning of the journal, 3 sections set the context for learning. "Welcome to the World's Forests Edition of the *Natural Inquirer!*" provides an introduction to the journal.

"Thinking About the World's Forests" presents the benefits of forests and sets the stage for why it is important to understand forests at a global scale.

"Thinking About Science" presents the method used by FAO to gather the information included in the Inquiries. To be most effective, students

should read these sections before they begin the Inquiries. A short lesson plan for these sections is presented on page 50.

Each Inquiry is comprised of 2 main sections: "The Situation" and "What FAO Discovered." "The Situation" introduces the question asked by FAO. This section also presents background information that led to the research question. Whenever there is a scientific question to be answered, there is a situation that led to the development of the question.

"What FAO Discovered" presents the answer to the research question. This section includes tables, figures, and photographs as well as text. Embedded within this section are "Reflection Sections," which ask questions aimed at encouraging students to think critically about what they are reading. You may use these questions to check student comprehension and stimulate discussion. Possible answers to the Reflection Questions can be found on page 58.

In some instances, a "You Do the Math" section provides an opportunity for students to integrate math with their scientific learning.

Before beginning any of the Inquiries, have your students read, "Welcome to the World's Forests Edition of the *Natural Inquirer!*" This section introduces the journal and provides opportunity for students to begin thinking about forests within their own country and region as a part of the global landscape. Students should only have to read this section once.

Before they leave this section, have them locate their own region on the map on page 9.

Note that the first occurrence of glossary words is given in bold. The glossary is on page 44 and the words are presented in alphabetical order.