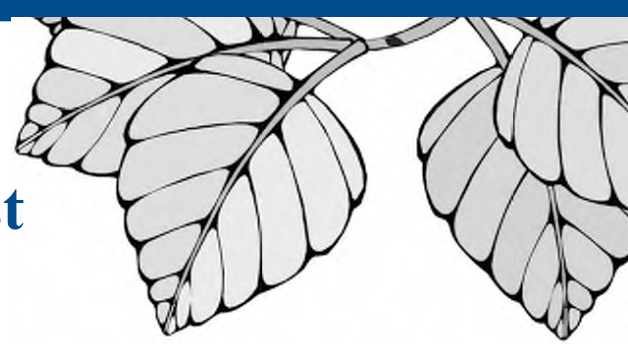


# Welcome to the Student Scientist Edition of the *Natural Inquirer*!



The *Natural Inquirer* is a science education journal, originally created for middle school students. The *Natural Inquirer* presents published science from Forest Service scientists, written in the standard scientific format but for a younger audience. For more information, visit <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>.

The *Natural Inquirer* Student Scientist Edition was developed as a part of the Forest Service's More Kids In the Woods initiative. Using the *Natural Inquirer* in two high school classrooms, the journals were first used to teach students at the Henry Ford Academy in Dearborn, Michigan to read and write actual scientific papers. The students then developed, conducted, and wrote up their own research. Their research was conducted on a natural area near the school's campus. This area is known as the Oxbow (or the Oxbow Island) because it contains an oxbow lake which is connected on one end to the Rouge River.

This edition of the *Natural Inquirer* contains 5 scientific articles written by the students. It also contains a lesson plan that includes 3 abstracts written from student research papers. The articles can



be used in classrooms from 6th grade through high school. Students can read these articles as they would read a normal *Natural Inquirer*.

These articles were written by high school students using the standard scientific format. Student scientists identified their own research questions, developed their own methodology, collected their own data, and wrote it up using the template of the *Natural Inquirer*.

Before using this journal in the classroom, educators should read the "Educator Resources" section beginning on page 66. This section contains resources to assist educators with using this journal in the classroom.



For more information about the *Natural Inquirer*, visit <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>