

Teacher's Note

Although students should learn about natural resources by reading these articles, one of the main purposes of the journal is to introduce the work of scientists to middle school science students. Our goal is to stimulate an interest in natural resource science by presenting research activities of a variety of scientists. First, you and your students will “*Meet the Scientist.*”

In the articles themselves, “*Reflection Questions*” are oriented toward helping you conduct a class discussion about the problems, methods, findings, and implications associated with each research article. These questions should stimulate critical thinking about the article.

Critical thinking and discussion may be encouraged by using small groups, although entire class discussions may also be helpful. Note that the answers to the reflection questions should not be considered right or wrong. They are intended to stimulate critical thinking only.

The articles, as well as the journal's overall format, are designed to imitate the format of a professional research journal. We have, however, added a number of additional sections to serve as resources.

- First, the students will read the section called “*Thinking About Science.*” This section highlights some aspect of the process of science that may be found in the article. The section called “*Thinking About the Environment*” highlights some aspect of the content of the article. A glossary is also included to help students understand the more challenging words in the article. The first occurrence of these words in the article is given in bold print. Understanding these words will be crucial to the students' comprehension of the article.
- Each article also contains a “*Discovery FACTivity,*” which is a hands-on inquiry-based activity intended to illustrate some aspect of the article.

- In the back of the journal, you will find a matrix which will allow you to identify articles by the national standards that they address. National standards were identified from Project 2061, developed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science.
- Also in the back of the journal, you will find evaluation forms. After you have read an article with your class, please photocopy the forms, complete them, and send them to the address listed.

This journal was created by the Urban Tree House, an education program of the USDA Forest Service. If you have any questions or comments, please contact:

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