



Sun Scoop

Estimated Time

30 – 60 minutes

Supplies

Video camera (optional)

Tape recorder (optional)

Paper and pencils

Research materials (encyclopedias, newspapers, or computer with Internet access)

Learning Objective

This activity uses journalism to raise awareness about the science and risk of overexposure to the sun's harmful UV rays and ways to be sun safe. Assess what students have learned by asking them to include the following in their story: at least three ways to be sun safe; the effects of ignoring these precautionary measures; and some background information about the sun and UV radiation.

Directions

Assign each student, or group of students, a story angle. If possible, arrange for a science teacher, nurse, or local weather forecaster to come to your classroom. Let the students interview the "expert." Have the students respond to the questions below as a class and then write their stories individually or in groups.

Questions and Answers

1. What questions will you ask the expert? *Students should list 3-5 questions.*
2. What is the most important part-or lead-of your story? *Students should select one fact as the lead.*
3. Of the facts gathered, which ones should be included in your story? *Students should list the other facts they will include in their story.*

Additional Resources

www.nespa.org

The National Elementary Schools Press Association.

www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/NIE/index.html

The New York Times Newspaper in Education (N.I.E.) program.

www.writesite.org

An interactive language arts and journalism web site for students (an OET/SchoolNet Project).



Sun Scoop

Directions

Use a video camera, tape recorder, or pencil and paper to develop a news story. Story angles could include: the health effects of overexposure to the sun, sun protection, or how the UV Index works.

First, gather the facts (who, what, when, where, why, and how) using resources, such as the Internet, encyclopedias, or your local newspaper. Interview an expert. This could be a science teacher, nurse, or local weather forecaster. Write a lead and the rest of the story. As a guide, answer the three questions below. Be prepared to share your news story with your class.

Talk with the editor of your school or local paper about printing the news story. Ask your teacher or principal if you can read it over the PA system during morning announcements.

Vocabulary Words

Story Angle – The topic or approach to a news story.

Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How –

Questions that form the basic building blocks of any news story. A story might answer some or all of these questions.

Lead – The most important part of the story. The lead is always the first paragraph and it explains some of the Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How questions.

Questions

4. What questions will you ask the expert?
5. What is the most important part-or lead-of your story?
6. Of the facts gathered, which ones should be included in your story?