

Lesson Plan

How Helpful?

Book: *Detecting Injury*

Series: Medical Detecting

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students identify the benefits and drawbacks of different methods for detecting injury.

Supplies

- *Detecting Injury* book
- How Helpful? worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the How Helpful? worksheet for each student. Read *Detecting Injury* out loud as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Give each student a copy of the How Helpful? worksheet. Explain that the worksheet contains a list of four major methods for detecting injury. For each method, students should write one sentence explaining a benefit of the method. Why is it useful, or what can it do well?

Then students should write one sentence explaining a drawback of the method. What are its limitations? What can it not do? If needed, students may use the book for reference.

Evaluation

Could students correctly identify benefits and drawbacks of several different injury detection methods?

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 4–7 (RI 4.1, 4.4, 4.7; 5.1–2, 5.4; 6.1–2, 6.4, 6.7; 7.1, 7.4).

How Helpful?

METHOD:	BENEFIT:	DRAWBACK:
Looking and feeling		
X-ray studies		
CT scans		
MRI scans		

How Helpful? ANSWER KEY

METHOD:	BENEFIT:	DRAWBACK:
Looking and feeling	blood or bruises can show where an injury is; a body part looking or feeling different than normal can indicate a problem	many injuries don't show up on the outside; many injuries can't be felt on the outside; touching could harm some injuries more
X-ray studies	they can show bones well; they can show tumors; they are not as expensive as some methods	they don't tell much about soft tissues; they use radiation; they don't show concussions
CT scans	they let doctors see the brain; they are fast; they make detailed images; they are cheaper than MRIs	they use radiation; patients must lie still; they are less detailed than MRI scans; the machines are not very portable
MRI scans	they let doctors see the inside of the body; they are more detailed than CT scans; they do not use radiation	patients with metal in their bodies can't have MRI scans; patients must lie still; patients could feel claustrophobic; they are more expensive than CT scans; they take longer than CT scans; the machines are not very portable