Lesson Plan

Exploring Science Concepts

Series: Science Concepts
Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students design a science experiment based on a question drawn from content in the Science Concepts series.

Supplies

- One book in the Science Concepts series
- Notebooks and writing utensils

Before the Activity

Divide students into small groups.

Activity

Choose a book from the Science Concepts series. Read it aloud as a class, going around so that each student has a turn to read. Once the book is finished, ask each group to design a science experiment based on this book.

First, have each group come up with a question. For example, if the class read the *Temperature* book, students might ask: "How hot does it have to be for chocolate to melt?" or "Does adding salt to water make it boil at a hotter or lower temperature?"

Next, each group should plan an experiment that could answer this question. For example, they could add different levels of salt to water and measure its boiling temperature. Students should write their question and the steps of their experiment in a notebook. They should also list the materials the experiment would use.

Finally, each group should record a hypothesis. This is a guess about what the results of the experiment would be. An example would be "We believe saltier water will result in a higher boiling point."

Have each group share their question, experiment, and hypothesis with the class. Optional extension: Pick an experiment to try out during a future class period and test if the hypothesis was correct!

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Evaluation
Could students come up with a question and hypothesis related to a scientific concept from the book? Could students design an experiment that would help answer their question?

Standards
This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grade 4 (RI 4.3), and the National Science Education Standards' Content Standards A, B, and E, grades K–4.

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