Great Ideas in Science Consortium
Teacher Enhancement in Science, Math, and Technology

Activity Plan

What Is A Scientist?
Facilitator: Katrina Macht

Time: 2 45-50 minute sessions


Description: In this activity, students will draw their perception of a scientist at work and evaluate their drawings. Students will meet a nonstereotypical scientist and will then reevaluate their perceptions.

Objectives:
1. Be able to formulate opinions about scientists
2. Be able to analyze and evaluate stereotypes

Procedure:
1. Students are asked: When you hear the word scientist what is the first thought that comes to your mind?
2. Students will write responses in think pads or on paper.
3. Each student will be given a sheet of drawing paper and asked to draw a picture of a scientist at work.
4. Students will then trade pictures and use “Draw A Scientist” checklist to evaluate the drawing without talking to the artist.
5. Class discussion of drawings. Calculate checklist on board or overhead. Discuss what students think scientists do.
6. Introduce students to a scientist, who will make a brief presentation to the class.
7. While one student gives the scientist a tour of the school, the remainder of the class creates interview questions.
8. The students interview the scientist about his profession.
9. Students will draw a second picture of a scientist at work.
10. Close—Class discussion: How is your second picture different from your first picture? How are your perceptions about scientists changed?