

QUICK LAB **INDEPENDENT Inquiry**

Investigating Human Impact on the Land

In this activity, you will read about an environmental issue related to land use in your local area. Then you will identify the problem, the people affected by the problem, and the various positions taken on the issue. Then you will take one side of the issue and debate it.

PROCEDURE

- 1 Use the approved online sources to find an article that discusses an issue involving land use in your local community. As a group, decide on one article that your group will work on. Obtain your teacher's approval of your choice.
- 2 Choose one or two members to read the article and then discuss it. Choose another group member to write a summary that can be presented as your argument in the debate.

- 3 Who are the people affected by the problem? Think of everyone affected, not just the people mentioned in the article.

- 4 According to the article, are there two or more groups of people (called stakeholders) who have opposing views on the problem? As a group, talk about the stakeholders to identify them and to explain each of their positions on the problem.

OBJECTIVE

- Understand the complexity of issues involving land degradation by humans.

MATERIALS

For each group

- online news articles related to local land issues

Quick Lab continued

5 Within your own group, divide into smaller groups to debate the various positions you identified in Step 4.

6 What position did you support in the debate?

7 Why did you support that position?

8 Was your position initially supported by the majority?

9 Did your group persuade the opposing group of your position?

10 Was your position finally supported by the majority?

11 What conclusions do you draw about how easily issues involving land use can be resolved?
