



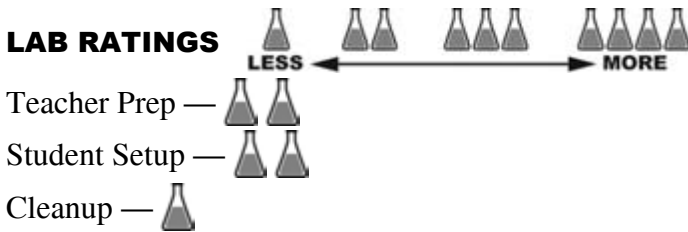
QUICK LAB **INDEPENDENT Inquiry**

Investigating Human Impact on the Land **GENERAL**

 Small groups

 30 minutes

LAB RATINGS



TEACHER NOTES

In this activity, students are introduced to the controversies over human impacts on the environment. Each student will read an article that their group selects from an approved online source. The selected article should talk about an issue that affects land use in your local community. It may be helpful to provide a list of approved websites, instruct students to choose a one-page article, and follow up to ensure that each group decides on an article in a timely manner. Within their groups, students will identify the problem, the stakeholders, and the various positions taken by stakeholders. Then they will each choose which side they wish to take and debate with other students taking opposing sides.

Tip This lab will help students understand debate over issues related to human impact on land.

Student Tip Think about how many different people are affected by the way land is used and how the issue you are reading about affects you personally.

Skills Focus Evaluating Issues, Defending Positions

MODIFICATION FOR **GUIDED Inquiry**

For the guided inquiry option, provide students with the materials to be used as the basis for a specific position in the debate.

MATERIALS

For each group

- online news articles related to local land issues

My Notes

Quick Lab continued

Answer Key

2. Accept all reasonable answers.
3. Accept all reasonable answers. Be sure that students are thinking about more than the most obvious stakeholders when they answer this question.
4. Accept all reasonable answers.
6. Accept all reasonable answers.
7. Accept all reasonable answers.
8. Accept all reasonable answers.
9. Accept all reasonable answers.
10. Accept all reasonable answers.
11. Accept all reasonable answers. Students should show that they recognize that land use issues are difficult to resolve because there are usually many different people with different interests in the way that certain areas of land are used. It can be very difficult to have everyone be happy with one particular outcome and often there is no satisfactory resolution of problems involving land use.

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?
