

# Sensible Science



**Real World Ecosystems  
Activity**  
Grade Level: 5-8

## Main Objectives

This activity gives learners knowledge as to how to plan, analyze, and troubleshoot their scientific investigations by giving them some experience whereby they practice their analytical skills on a variety of recorded experiments.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of this activity, learners will:

- Understand how scientific methods may be applied to environmental situations
- Look at a variety of problems to understand that the same basic scientific approach may be applied to both large- and small-scale situations

## Length of Activity

1.5 hours

## Materials List

Sensible Science Backgrounder  
Sensible Science Learner Worksheet  
Sensible Science Learner Worksheet Answer Key

## Procedure

### Step 1: Backgrounder

- Provide the learners with copies of the Sensible Science Backgrounder. Allow the class to read the backgrounder individually or in groups.
- As learners are finishing up their reading, be sure to remind them to discuss amongst themselves the “Think About” questions at

the end of the backgrounder.

### Step 2: Worksheet

- Provide the learners with the worksheet and have them answer the questions as a take-home assignment, or in class.
- Answers to the worksheet questions can be found in the answer key.

## Tips and Extensions

- The learners will probably have some degree of foreknowledge about the scientific process, but it can never be reviewed too often. That is the purpose of providing a variety of activity segments wherein the learners must demonstrate their understanding.

## Comprehension

Comprehension will be checked via the several questions in the Learner Worksheet and discussion of the same.