

Using Several Sources for Research

An important step in researching is being able to analyze and synthesize information from several different sources.

Time: 20 minutes

Materials:

- several sources on the same topic
- jot notes made during the mini-lesson [Making Jot Notes While Researching](#)

Note: Retain the jot notes from this lesson for use in the mini-lesson [Organizing Jot Notes into an Outline](#).

Grouping: whole class and small groups

Procedure:

1. Tell students that when researchers are gathering information they often need to use more than one source.
2. Introduce the inquiry question, “How can we conserve natural resources for future generations?” and provide several different resources on the same topic, including books, Websites, articles, magazines, etc.
3. Using a book with an index, model the process of taking jot notes using headings.
4. Using this resource, look for new information and add it to the notes already collected during the “Making Jot Notes While Researching” mini-lesson. Use a different-coloured pen to distinguish the notes from different sources.
5. Organize students into groups and provide each group with a different resource. Tell them they are to find one big idea and two details about conserving natural resources. **Brainstorm** things they can find out (e.g., buying less stuff, taking only what you need from nature, living sustainably). Each group chooses one aspect to research. Using the format of bullets for big ideas and dashes for details, students use the first resource to make jot notes. After about five minutes, exchange resources among the groups and repeat the search for information.
6. After all the resources have been checked by each group, share some of the findings with the whole class.

I am going to check the index of this book to see if there is any information about how we can conserve natural resources. Which key word(s) might guide me to this section? Yes, “sustainable living” would be a good place to start searching.

Teaching Tip: As students are researching, check to make sure that they are crediting their sources.