

Microworlds: Suggestions for Collecting Work Samples

We are fortunate that our science curriculum is very inquiry oriented. At each grade level there are many opportunities built-in for students to do inquiry. Often all that is necessary is remove some of the teacher direction and structure, but supply students with available materials. We have identified opportunities for inquiry work samples in Microworlds. Although these activities provide an opportunity for students to **demonstrate all four components** of inquiry, they can also be used to give students practice on individual components.

Lesson	Lesson Title	Description
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Learning About Lenses	This activity could be made more inquiry oriented by introducing a conceptual question about magnifiers: “Why do some things magnify?” Then supply students with the materials, and provide them with the “Scientific Inquiry Report Form” to help guide their investigation.
12, 13, 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking at Living Things: <i>Volvox</i>• Looking at Living Things: <i>Blepharisma</i>• Looking at Living Things: <i>Vinegar Eels</i>	This three activities provide an opportunity for students to do a comparative investigation, they could look at a variety of things: size, color, movement etc. The scope could be expanded by using water samples students collect from ponds or other sources.
15 & 16	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Looking at Living Things: Hay and Grass Infusions I & II	This activity could become an open-ended investigation. The activity could be introduced with a class discussion about infusions and what might affect what organisms are found in an infusion. Students could investigate a variety of things, different water, different hays, keeping infusions at different temperatures or light levels.