

Concept Cartoons, created by Brenda Keogh and Stuart Naylor in 1991, are designed to probe students' ideas about a science concept they have been exploring or investigating. Cartoon-style drawings show different characters arguing about the answer to a question or debating alternate explanations of scientific phenomena. Concept Cartoons can be used to stimulate discussion before, during, or at the conclusion of an investigation. Cartoon-style assessment items benefit from information presented visually with minimal text or language load.

Inspired by these examples, The Inquiry Project has developed its own set of concept cartoons for its three curriculum units. All of The Inquiry Project resources, including Concept Cartoons, are accessible through <http://Inquiryproject.terc.edu>.

From the homepage, use the Curriculum tab, select either Grade 3, 4, or 5, and choose Concept Cartoons from the left-hand navigation bar for each grade level unit. Included with each Concept Cartoon is a description of the purpose of the assessment, things to look for in student responses, and a pdf for teachers to download a copy of the cartoon.