



Part 1

Focus Investigation Guide

A focus investigation engages learners in small groups to make and record observations, collaborate and organize data, and/or build and test models. Use divergent questions to engage students, asking, for example, “What do you observe?” Use clarifying or probing questions to support thinking; for example, “How does it change?” or “Why do you think that?” A focus investigation is guided by the teacher as he or she moves into and out of small groups while students collaborate during the investigation. This type of investigation works well after a launch investigation. A whole-group discussion after the focus investigation helps students synthesize learning.



What **questions** will focus students on the investigation?



How will I **prepare** and **manage** materials for small groups? What safety considerations are there and how will I address them?



How and where will students **record** observations, data, and questions? What **steps** will students follow to conduct the investigation?



How will I **transition** students to discuss the investigation and close the lesson? How will I **support** further thinking?