

## Science Minilessons: Critical Thinking

### Rating Natural Disasters

**LIST** natural disasters.

**RESEARCH** to find out which disasters have scientific rating scales (for example, earthquakes are measured by the Richter scale). (See *Inquire* page 24.)

**INVENT** a scientific rating scale for a natural disaster that doesn't yet have one.

**RATE** a disaster using your scale.

**EXPLAIN** your rating scale to a partner.

### Climbing Life's Tree

**FIND** a copy of the tree of life displaying earth's life-forms and study it carefully.

**CHOOSE** two closely related life-forms.

**COMPARE** them using a Venn diagram. (See *Inquire* page 23.)

**CHOOSE** two life-forms that aren't closely related.

**CONTRAST** them using a Venn diagram.

### Invent the future!

**LIST** problems that need to be solved and choose one.

**IMAGINE** an invention that would solve the problem.

**WRITE** a goal and objectives for making your invention a reality. (See *Inquire* page 21.)

## Math Minilessons: Critical Thinking

### Count me in!

**LIST** 10 things that can be counted (like people or pencils).

**LIST** 10 things that can be measured but not counted (like water or heat).

**WRITE** a form of measurement that is used for each thing that can be measured but not counted.

**EXPLAIN** the difference between counting things and measuring things.

### Thinking About Thinking

**FIND** a word problem in your math book.

**SOLVE** the problem, going through whatever steps it takes.

**REVIEW** the steps you took to solve the problem. Did you reason deductively or inductively? (See *Inquire* pages 18–19.)

**EXPLAIN** your thinking pattern as you solved the problem.

### Make a math survey.

**WRITE** questions for a survey about people's math habits (how often they use fractions, how much they want a math-intensive job, and so on). **USE** a five-point answer scale (1=Never, 2 = Rarely, 3 = Sometimes, 4 = Often, 5 = Always).

**GIVE** each classmate the survey and gather their responses.

**AVERAGE** the scores for each question by adding them together and dividing by the number of classmates who completed the survey.