

# Language Arts Lesson One

## Trifold Research Project

This language arts lesson requires students to explore a topic of interest with a common body of prior knowledge from science lessons. By incorporating the two areas, students will use research as a valid tool of discovery.

The trifold research project consists of a large piece of construction paper, folded twice to allow for a presentation-style folder. (See directions at the conclusion of this lesson.) This project allows students to break down segments of information into subtopics and categories. By physically laying out the project in six pieces, students are supported in their analysis of information and can concentrate on communicating the information.

### Objectives:

- Students will use information that may have been covered in science classes to explore a water pollutant.
- Students will use the research process to gather information about a water pollutant and synthesize subtopics.
- Students will use the trifold project to classify and communicate findings about a water pollutant.
- NEVADA ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS STANDARDS: 4, 6, 7, 11

### Time:

- One class period to explain, one week out-of-class time to collect information and synthesize

### Materials:

- access to library media center
- water quality notes/information (from Unit 3 of this book)
- access to computer lab
- construction paper, colored paper, scissors and glue

### Procedures:

1. As a class, brainstorm various water pollutants already discussed in science lessons. (A table of common water pollutants is included in the Appendix.)
2. Show an example of a trifold project and explain to students that they will create a similar project about one water pollutant.
3. As a class, create a grading rubric for the assignment, with points allotted for each of the following required areas:

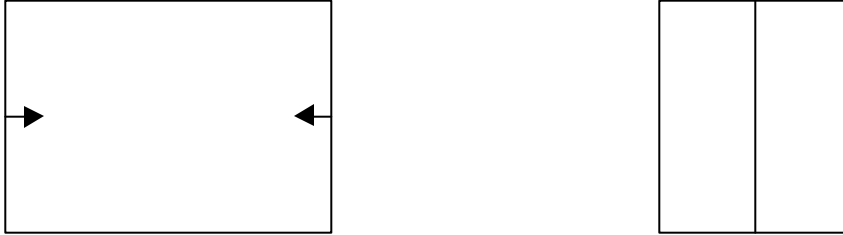
- characterization of the pollutant
- sources where it is found
- health effects
- exploration of toxicity levels
- procedures for abatement
- visual images.

The rubric should allow for points to measure writing skills such as organization of writing, topic, audience and conventions.

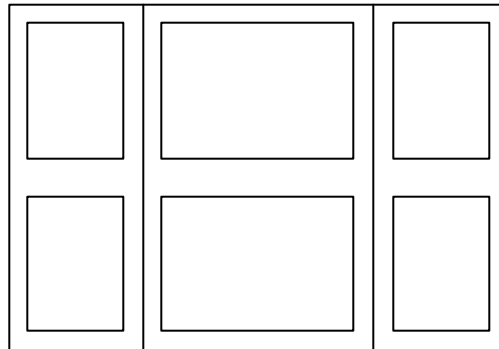
4. Incorporate staggered due dates for the following aspects of the trifold research project:
  - choosing/selecting a topic
  - gathering print/electronic sources
  - sorting and categorizing information into subtopics
  - synthesizing information into text
  - assemble and finalize trifold projects.
5. Schedule and allow students to make oral presentations to the class.

## Trifold Construction Directions

1. Fold a large piece of construction paper so that two shorter sides come together in the middle and meet.



2. Open up the construction paper. Inside, you should be able to fit six pieces of paper into the layout. Two half-sheets of standard paper will fit in the middle section. Along each side section, two quarter-sheets of standard paper will fit. A graphic artist can precut colored paper for these sections for students' use.



### Helpful Hints:

- On the grading rubric, specify which trifold sections should be used for which subtopics. This helps students to know which topics will require more information (half-sheet).
- Use the back cover for the bibliography. This reserves presentation space for research information.
- Keep all parts of the trifold loose in a ziplock bag (one for each student or group). Glue in sections as the final step so that revisions can be made throughout the project.