

Science Studies Weekly[®]

Challenger

A weekly newspaper for young students of Science

Vol. 7 Issue 1

First Quarter

Week 1

Welcome, Scientists

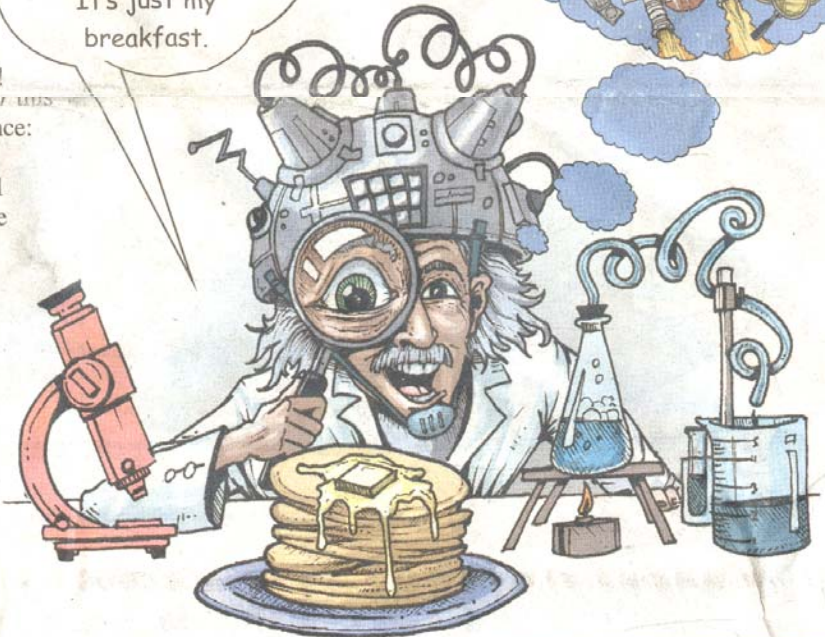
There are billions of things to discover and wonder about in this world. What is everything made of? How does electricity work? And, what is this stuff stuck to the bottom of my shoe? With science, we can find answers to these fascinating questions and more!

Over the years, people have come up with some pretty smart ways of getting answers to questions. Scientific discoveries usually come over time, by trial and error. Science is a set of tools, knowledge, and methods. We use it to figure out the way the world and the universe work. Using scientific methods, or tools, we have learned to cure diseases, fly to the moon, understand ancient life, and create new ways of communicating, traveling, and getting information!

As you read *Science Studies Weekly: Challenger* this year, you will learn about three main areas of science: physical science, life science, and geo- and astro-science. The first few weeks will be about physical science. In this section, you'll learn what things are made of. Next, in geoscience and astro-science, we will look at the Earth, planets, stars, and the universe. Finally, in the life sciences section, we will learn about animals and living things.

Each week, you will read about famous scientists. You'll learn about current discoveries. You'll learn about the science behind our modern technologies and what makes them work. And you'll even learn how to be a scientist as you work in the lab. There are so many fun things to discover in *Science Studies Weekly* that we better get started right now, so put on your lab coats and turn the page!

Eureka! By Jove!
I've made the next
great scientific
discovery! . . . Oh, wait.
It's just my
breakfast.



THIS WEEK

Scientists, Welcome

- Introduction to Science
- So Many Questions
- The Scientific Method
- Objectivity
- Sir Isaac Newton

Connections

Meet Sam Maslow

When you think of a scientist, who comes to mind? Do you think of someone from history like Sir Isaac Newton? Do you picture someone in a lab coat looking into a microscope or mixing chemicals in a test tube? Newton was certainly a very famous scientist, and many scientists do wear lab coats. But there are lots of scientists out there, and they're all different. Sure, they all love science, but some are interested in biology while others like chemistry. Still others think there's nothing like astronomy. And you don't have to be a grown-up to be a scientist.

Meet Sam Maslow. Sam is part scientist, part collector, and part historian. Oh, and part student, too. Sam lives and goes to

school in Brooklyn, New York. In 2007, National Geographic magazine published a letter Sam wrote to the editor. He wrote the letter to encourage kids to visit national parks and to get involved in the Junior Ranger program that many parks offer.

Sam has completed more than 260 Junior Ranger programs. He also created his own Web site to help other kids find out more about being a Junior Ranger. The Web site includes pictures of all the badges, pins, and patches he's collected. He gets his National Park Passport stamped at every park, and he collected more than 100 stamps just in 2006. Sam has traveled to many parts of the US and Canada, but some of his Junior Ranger awards came through the mail. Some parks



send out booklets for kids to complete. When you return the booklet with all of the activities completed, you'll get a badge (or a pin or a patch) in the mail. Sam's Web site will tell you what you need to do. Check out his amazing Web site at juniorranger.info. How many badges will you collect?