

## Identifying Research Needs

Students should have already produced conjectures and used them to focus their research. They are ready to enter the next research phase, that of identifying needs and making plans.

- Begin by conducting a whole-class discussion. Ask students to briefly present their problems and conjectures. Elicit suggestions, criticisms, and questions from other students. Encourage students to use their classmates' suggestions to refine their investigation problems and questions once more before they begin to determine their research needs.
- Model for students a helpful process for determining their research needs.

Choose one of the conjectures that came out of a discussion in a previous lesson. Ask questions such as:

*What facts will we need to help us decide whether this conjecture is right?*

*Where can we find these facts?*

*What do we need to understand to make our conjecture better?*

*What would an expert on this problem know that we do not know?*

Record students' suggestions on the board. Suggest additional sources and strategies as necessary.

- Assign *Inquiry Journal*, page 30, for students to complete as they identify their knowledge needs and possible sources for investigation.
- Provide research time during the week for students to obtain newly identified sources and pursue new knowledge needs.



### Teacher Tip INVESTIGATION

**ACTIVITIES** As students begin collecting resources, provide a space in the classroom, such as a

box or shelf, where students can store and share research sources.



### Formal Assessment

Use the Research Rubrics on page 174J to assess students' ability to find needed information.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 2 Ancient Civilizations**

**Gathering Information**

My group's research problem:  
**Answers will vary.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Information I need to find or figure out to help explore the problem:

A. **Information will vary.**

B. \_\_\_\_\_

C. \_\_\_\_\_

D. \_\_\_\_\_

E. \_\_\_\_\_

Source	Useful?	How?
Encyclopedias		<b>Information will vary.</b>
Books		
Magazines		
Newspapers		
Videotapes, filmstrips, etc.		
TV		
Interviews, observations		
Museums		
Other		

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*Inquiry Journal* p. 30