Science Skills Launch: Unit Overview

SNC2D, Grade 10 Science (Academic), Unit 1. 4 classes of 75 minutes, plus one class for the lab skills practical (about one week).

The big question

How do scientists plan safe investigations and trust their results?

A short launch unit for the skills students use all year. Students refresh lab safety for biology, chemistry and optics, run a controlled inquiry on antacid tablets in water, master significant digits, percent error and unit conversions, evaluate sources for reliability and bias, cite sources in APA format, and research Canadian scientists and science careers. The unit ends with a lab skills practical and full lab report. All data sets and sources are original.

Lessons

#	Lesson	Classes	Question	Expectations	What's inside
1	**Lab Safety Refresh**	1	How do we plan for hazards?	A1.4, A1.2	Hazard stations; WHMIS and consumer symbols; safety plans
2	**Inquiry and the Lab Report**	1	How do we run a controlled inquiry?	A1.1, A1.5, A1.10, A1.11	Antacid fizz inquiry; justified conclusion
3	**Data, Error and Precision**	1	How much can we trust a number?	A1.6, A1.8, A1.12, A1.13	Significant digits; percent error; units; error detective
4	**Research and Sources**	1	Which sources can we trust?	A1.3, A1.7, A1.9, A2.1, A2.2	Source check; APA citations; scientist and career profile

Assessment

Type	In this unit
Assessment for learning	Hazard stations, fizz inquiry, measure it three ways, error detective, source check, profiles, exit tickets
Assessment as learning	Self-checks against success criteria
Assessment of learning	Lab Skills Practical and lab report, with a rubric in the Summative Task file (suggested weight: 5% of the final mark)

What's included

In the Start Here folder:

- **Summative Task and Rubric:** the Lab Skills Practical (antacid surface area inquiry)

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- **Lab Skills Kit:** safety contract, lab report template, graph paper, research notes organizer and a significant digits reference, for use all year

Safety: every student needs a signed safety contract before the first hands-on lab. Every hands-on activity has safety notes in its lesson plan. Follow your board's science safety guidelines.

What's in each lesson

- Teacher lesson plan with expectations, timed sequence, differentiation, look-fors and answer guides
- Slides with speaker notes
- Student handouts and organizers
- Editable Word and PowerPoint files, plus PDFs

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