

# Setting Up a Science Notebook

Guide your students to set up a structure that will support their learning and your evaluation of science understanding.

## 1 Introduce the science notebook to students.

Say: **Like scientists, you will use this science notebook for your science work. It's your own notebook to use every time you do science. Like a real scientist, you will write notes in it, draw pictures, write about experiments, and write vocabulary words.**

## 2 Have students choose an organization style.

**DAILY RECORD:** Students can make entries, in order, as they move through the unit. They can take notes about the Nature of Science, content lessons, and inquiry activities.

**SEPARATE SECTIONS:** Students can create separate sections for observations, inferences, inquiry activities, vocabulary, notetaking, questions, reflections, and so on.

## 3 Have students choose the notebook.

Some students may want to put looseleaf paper in a binder.

Other students may choose a spiral notebook, a two-pocket folder, or a composition book. Still other students might choose a combination of these.

## 4 Have students make and/or decorate the cover.

Instruct students to include their names and grade on the cover.

## 5 Have students write *Contents* on the first right-hand page.

Suggest that students save several pages for the Table of Contents and fill in the information as they continue through the unit.

## 6 Tell students that they should number the pages as they go along.

Tell students to add the appropriate page numbers to the Table of Contents as they proceed through the unit.

## TEACHING TIPS

- Have students use the science notebook daily or on a regular basis. Assign a student to pass them out at the beginning of each science period. Collecting the notebooks each day and keeping them in a central place may help them last longer.
- Students may want to tape or staple a ribbon into the notebook and use it to mark their place.
- Tell students to use labels and/or captions for all drawings.
- Students can include graphic organizers to help them understand and organize information. A variety of graphic organizer options are found in the *Pushes and Pulls Learning Masters Book*.
- You may want to use sticky notes to indicate corrections or additions that students need to make in their science notebooks.