

www.UnderstandingScience.org

In conjunction with the January 2009 launch of YoS activities, the COPUS network is excited to celebrate the launch of the new Understanding Science web site.

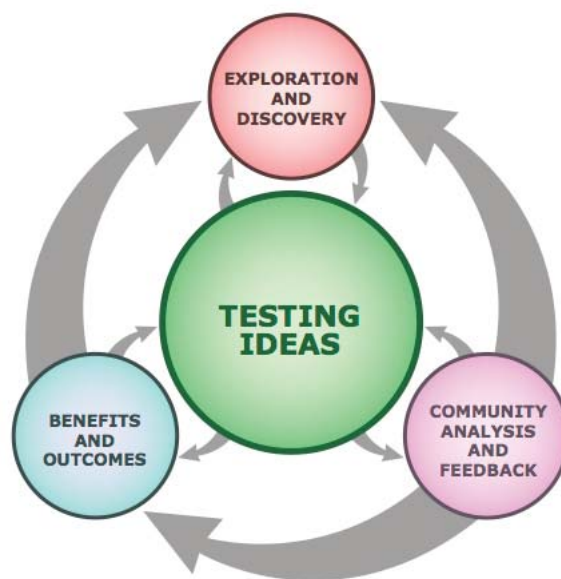
About The Site

Research indicates that students and teachers at all levels have poor understandings of the nature of science. Many think that science amounts to learning facts from a textbook, following the simple steps of “the scientific method,” and working in an isolated lab. Of course, the true nature of science is much more complex—and exciting! This creative process relies on interactions among scientists around the world who apply a variety of methods to help unravel the mysteries of the universe. Regretfully, this is rarely a perspective reinforced by science textbooks.

Understanding Science is a freely accessible web-based resource that provides a new approach for teaching the nature of science. Its goals are to (1) improve teacher understanding of the scientific enterprise and (2) provide materials and tools that enable K–16 teachers to incorporate the true nature and process of science throughout their teaching.

Highlights include:

- A dynamic representation of the real process of science
- Science stories stressing key nature-of-science concepts across disciplines
- Scientist profiles interlinked with information on how science works
- Cartoons illustrating key concepts
- Regularly updated stories on science in the news
- Activities for direct use by students
- A database of vetted lesson plans
- Teaching tips and strategies
- Clarification of misconceptions
- Friendly but comprehensive background material



Understanding Science reveals the nature and process of science inherent in standard science content from all grade levels and disciplines. Public engagement with science can begin in the classroom!

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