

# S is for Scientists

## A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

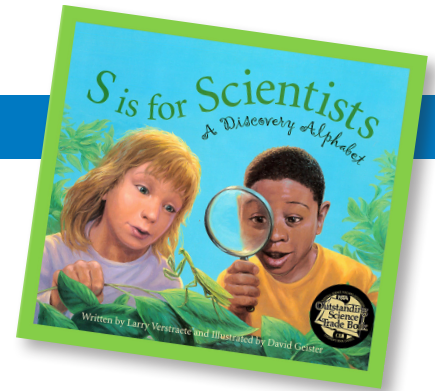
**Themes:** Investigation, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Scientific Method

**Book Brief:** This book introduces an alphabet of scientific discoveries that changed our lives—and the world.

**Author:** Larry Verstraete

**Illustrator:**  
David Geister

**Content Connections:**  
Science, Social Studies



## TIME TO READ!



### BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

**The Cover:** Have students make predictions about the content based on the title and the cover illustration. What is a scientist? What are the kids on the cover looking at?

**The Pictures:** What can we infer, or guess, that scientists do based on the clues from the cover and the rest of the pictures?

**Prior Knowledge:** Flip through some of the pages and read out a few of the alphabet words (e.g., adapt, build, compare). What do these words have in common? Explain that each letter stands for an action (verb) that scientists do to make discoveries. Have students brainstorm more scientific action words. Write them on the board, in order, to make a flow chart of the scientific method.

**Vocabulary:** Will vary from page to page.

**Purpose for Reading:** This book works best if you read about a few discoveries at a time. As you read, have students compare the discoveries, the scientists, and the time in history when the discoveries were made.

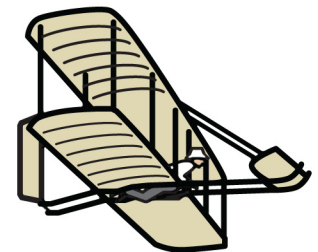
## WHILE WE READ

### MONITORING COMPREHENSION

For each discovery, ask:

- ◆ What word belongs to each alphabet letter?
- ◆ How did the discovery happen?
- ◆ Who made the discovery?

- ◆ When was this discovery made? How long ago was that?
- ◆ How did this scientist change the world?



## LET'S THINK ABOUT

**Our Purpose:** What do all these scientists have in common? How are they different? How are the discoveries alike? How are they different? Do some discoveries seem more important or impressive than others? Remind students that each new discovery builds on the work that came before it.

**Extending Our Thinking:** Are *you* a scientist? What makes someone a scientist? Can anyone be a scientist? Why or why not? Have you ever made a discovery or had a question and investigated to find the answer? When?

### NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.

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