



## 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Studying People Unit

### Unit Overview

Students begin the year with a scientific study of humans and research. Using high-interest contexts, students learn about the nature of science, scientific inquiry, experimental design, clinical trials, and trade-offs involved in decision-making. At the end of the unit, students evaluate several proposed studies for the quality of their scientific design.

#### Essential Questions:

1. What are the common elements shared by all scientific problem solving methods?
2. What are the elements of a well-designed experiment? Why are they important?
3. Why does scientific knowledge change?
4. What are the social implications and responsibilities associated with using human subjects in research studies?
5. How and why do expectations sometimes affect what scientists actually observe? What are some steps scientists should take to reduce the possibility of inaccurate observations?