



Note to Teachers

About the Exhibit: This exhibit questions the nature of scientific truth. It demonstrates how science is influenced by the cultural, personal and political backgrounds of the practitioners — qualities that include bias. *A QUESTION OF TRUTH* exemplifies the idea that science is a human act. Some of the exhibit experiences may raise sensitive issues.

Students should come out of the exhibit understanding that:

- Scientific principles, theories and laws need to be tested over time.
- Scientific principles, theories and laws can be a product of human biases and prejudices and may result in discriminatory acts.

Pre-Visit: A discussion outlining the purpose of the exhibit would be helpful in preparing students for their visit. Please review the following vocabulary before visiting:

- Bias:** A particular leaning, attitude or point of view that may lead to discriminatory behaviour.
- Assumption:** An act of accepting without proof.
- Stereotype:** An idea or generalization about a group of people based on some characteristic.
- Prejudice:** A feeling or attitude about all or nearly all people within a given group.

We recommend that students use the Ontario Science Centre's *A QUESTION OF TRUTH Exhibit Inquiry Sheets* to help them document what they learn and feel as they move through the exhibit. The sheets are organized by areas within the exhibit. A small map at the top of each section will help direct students.

During the Visit: Students should complete the exhibit inquiry sheets organized by areas. Teachers may want students to make a stop at each of the five areas within the exhibit, or teachers may have students focus more intensely on only one or two areas within the exhibit.

It is recommended that students are given time to answer the *Reflection Page* while still within the exhibit and that they are reminded to use examples from their exploration to support their thinking.

Post-Visit: A classroom visit to *A QUESTION OF TRUTH* may elicit a community response as well as a personal one. It is preferable that students have a chance to discuss their experience as soon as possible after their visit. Students should use notes taken during their visit to discuss issues of bias and scientific fact.

Please note that teachers may gain free access to the Ontario Science Centre to preview *A QUESTION OF TRUTH* by presenting a valid Ontario College of Teachers card.