

# Exploring the Scientific Method with Wacky Zacky

## Objective:

To collaboratively explore and understand each step of the scientific method through the context of "Wacky Zacky Bugs Out." Small groups will examine specific aspects of the scientific method as demonstrated in the story and share their insights to build a class-wide understanding of the scientific process.

## Instructions:

### **1. Read the Book:**

Read the book "Wacky Zacky Bugs Out," written by Tarana Peaches and illustrated by Henrique C. Rampazzo, to understand Zacky's approach to dealing with bugs.

### **2. Group Formation:**

Divide the class into 6 small groups. Each group will be responsible for exploring one step of the scientific method as presented in the story.

### **3. Group Tasks:**

- **Group A - Ask a Question:** What problem is Zacky trying to solve? Identify the main problem Zacky is facing in the story. What questions might Zacky ask? For example, what would the world be like if there were no bugs?
- **Group B - Do Background Research:** Zacky forgot to do research beforehand! But if he did, what might he have

learned? Share everything you already know about bugs and their role in the environment. Additionally, what information should Zacky have researched before forming his hypothesis?

- **Group C - Form a Hypothesis:** What is a hypothesis? What is Zacky's hypothesis? Using the format, "If... then..." What would have been a more environmentally responsible hypothesis that Zacky could've tested?
- **Group D - Test with an Experiment Group:** How did Zacky test his hypothesis? He tried a few things, list them all.
- **Group E - Analyze Results Group:** What is an observation? What observations did Zacky make after using the Cool Critter Catcher? List them all.
- **Group F - Draw a Conclusion:** What was Zacky's conclusion? Was his hypothesis correct? What might Zacky tell his peers about the outcome of his experiment?

#### 4. **Class Integration:**

Reconvene to share findings, starting with Group A. Discuss how each step contributes to understanding the scientific method in Zacky's story.

#### **Check for Understanding:**

**Importance of the Scientific Method:** Why is it important to follow all the steps of the scientific method? Describe what might happen if you skip a step.