

Reading a Scientific Paper

Field Biology

1. Work in groups of 2-3 – write everything down!
2. Read and discuss the question – what does it mean; is there vocabulary to think about; how could you imagine this question being relevant to a scientific study?
3. Find the “answer” in the paper – scan the paper first, skipping parts that are too difficult or irrelevant
4. Discuss what the “answer” means – put it in your own words; visualize landscapes, objects, concepts and processes if appropriate; identify vocabulary; make drawings or diagrams; look up critical terms and concepts
5. What are the ecological implication of the question and answer – how does this information affect plants or animals? How does it affect humans? How does it affect non-living parts of the environment like water, air, or soil? What is the historical significance (if any)?