Evaluation Strategy

The teacher will conduct assessments throughout the unit in a variety of ways. Both formative and summative assessments are important in determining what students have learned. Students will also conduct some of their own self-assessments.

Formative assessments will be used throughout a subunit to determine daily what students understand and what may need to be covered in an alternative way. Formative assessments will include entrance and exit slips daily. This allows the teacher to see what students are remembering and what they understood from that day’s lesson. Formative assessments will also include student-teacher dialogue. Dialogue occurs during student lab experiences with individuals and groups, as well as in a whole class setting. Formative assessments will also include looking at students’ written explanations or diagrams as they work through labs. Formative assessment of science procedures will be conducted through teacher observations.

Summative assessments will be implemented in three ways. One is students’ lab reports. Each lab report will be assessed for completeness, clarity, concept learned. A quiz will be given at the end of each subunit. Due to the progression of the curriculum, these will be used to determine if students are prepared to move on to the next subunit. Halfway through the unit and at the end, summative exams will be given. These will be more comprehensive and assess if students understand the relationships between the units.

Students will also assess themselves. One way students will do this is through writing down their prior knowledge and ideas before an experience and then editing what they wrote after the experience. Students will also assess their own work by editing it after discussions with other groups and the whole class. Students will also be asked periodically to explain their comfort and understanding with the material being covered.