

To the Sixth Grade Teacher

On this web page I want to offer a way for your students' experience of "The Air We Share" to serve as a springboard for diving into the material in the California Dept. of Education's Science Standards for Grade Six. As you know, these standards focus on the Earth Sciences.

I have decided to present the basic ideas in Standards in the voice of Joseph Priestley. Over his signature I have written seven letters to your students, in which he introduces the subject matter covered in the seven sections of the Standards, including some relevant personal anecdotes, not unlike those in the play. My hope is that this will provide some perspective for the students as you proceed through the more detailed aspects of each of the seven topics.

I think you might read the letters to the class, interrupting to ask questions or to expand on what I have Priestley say. Some students might want to read the letters themselves.

Here are links to the seven sections of the Science Standards, and what Priestley has to offer.

1. [Plate Tectonics and Earth's Structure](#)
2. [Shaping Earth's Surface](#)
3. [Heat \(Thermal Energy\) \(Physical Sciences\)](#)
4. [Energy in the Earth System](#)
5. [Ecology \(Life Sciences\)](#)
6. [Resources](#)
7. [Investigation and Experimentation](#)

I hope you will find this useful in helping your students with the standards and in stimulating their curiosity about these important areas of science in this century.

Rick Foster