Slater, T. (1999, December). Stellar Inquiry. *The science teacher*, 66, 59.

The Lesson

Day 1

- Students arrange pictures of people from youngest to oldest.
- Students are asked to think about how they know the whole life cycle even though they aren't 80 years old.
- Students are asked how they could complete their life cycle of humans (yearbook pictures, family reunions, hospitals, etc.).
- Students attempt to arrange pictures of stars from youngest to oldest (http://www.stsci.edu).

Day 2

- Teacher gives introduction to stellar life cycles interactive lecture.
- Teacher uses: flow charts, concept maps (student constructed), pictures from Hubble exploration (now labeled with accurate vocabulary).

Day 3

- Students create a "sales brochure" for low- or high-mass stars.
- Students evaluate each others presentations for scientific accuracy.

My Reaction

I found this a very valuable article. Even though it's only two pages long, the author gives detailed reasoning into why he does each step the way he does it. I think this model could be used to teach many different subjects.

Abisdris, G. (2003, March). Observing sunspots. *The science teacher*, 70, 68.

The Lesson

Solar Telescope

Use one lens in a pair of binoculars to create a solar telescope. The directions are quite detailed in the article.

Northern Lights

After a detailed description of what causes the northern lights, she says, "at this point in the activity I show students pictures of auroras to admire."

My Reaction

I found this an OK article. If you want to know how to set up a solar telescope or need some background on auroras, it is a good place to start. She could have at least stated that www.spaceweather.com is a good place to go for pictures of auroras.