

**T A B L E 3 . 9**

**Teaching Inquiry Skills Using the Learning Cycle**

**Exploratory Introduction**

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Help students try out and confront their prior knowledge of the inquiry skill.  
Provide an opportunity for students to display the skill focused on in the lesson. Start students thinking with a “key” question involving them in an activity using the skill.  
Relate previous experience to the lesson skill.

**Lesson Development**

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Discuss the results of the exploratory activity, providing connections to the focus skill.  
Provide an explanation of the new skill, describing how to use it, when it is used, for what purpose it is used, and how to know when to use it appropriately.  
Provide clear examples or model the new skill.  
Provide closure for the new skill, describing the steps necessary to use it.

**Expansion**

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Provide practice activities for the new skill. Use interesting examples, not repetitive practice.  
Provide activities where the skill is applied in new, relevant contexts.  
Provide activities helping students transfer the new social studies inquiry skill to more and more real-world events.  
Provide a summary of the skill, when it is used, and how to use it correctly.