NELF Explorer Lesson Plan:
Hypotheses and Working with Data
BY: JEFF SAUTTER

Overview
This lesson is designed to introduce students to essential scientific concepts and skills, including developing a hypothesis and graphing data, through exploration and analysis of the NELF scenarios. Through the maps and graphs in NELF Explorer, students learn about land use in New England and draw connections between natural resource management and land cover patterns.

Student Level
The module is suitable for 7th or 8th grade students.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this lesson, students should be able to:
- Interpret and compare land cover maps
- Understand connections between human activities and land cover patterns
- Understand what ecosystem services are and how they relate to land cover

Length
Approximately 1-2 class periods.

Standards
The specific state or national standards met with this lesson plan are not specified. Students practice writing a hypothesis, learn about the concept of ecosystem services, and practice interpretating visual patterns in connection to real-world processes.

Materials
Students will need a ChromeBook, laptop, or computer lab to use NELF Explorer.

Where to Access
The student worksheet is available on the Harvard Forest Schoolyard Ecology website.