

Student Activity Worksheet: Science sonnets

Directions: Use the *Science News* article "[Insect swarms might generate as much electric charge as storm clouds](#)" to answer the following questions about a recent serendipitous scientific discovery. Then, find another *Science News* article that highlights an unexpected discovery and create a poem or song about it. Check out [a few types of poems](#) by Penguin Random House for ideas.

Science's happy accidents

Serendipity is the development of moments that occur by chance, often in a happy or beneficial way. Many times, serendipitous moments are shown through art, such as in movies, paintings and poems. Many scientific findings or discoveries also happen by accident, sometimes when an experiment fails or produces completely unexpected or unintended results.

1. Why is the study described in the *Science News* article considered serendipitous? Explain.
2. Brainstorm some lessons you can take from how the scientific discovery happened. Why did the scientists think their study was uniquely successful?
3. Use the [Science News](#) or [Science News Explores](#) archives to find another serendipitous scientific discovery and create a poem or song about it. Check out a few [types of poems](#) by Penguin Random House for ideas.

