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IN-CLASS ACTIVITY - Who Regulates This?

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OBJECTIVE

Understand the Regulatory Landscape: Explore government regulations related to specific branches of science to understand the legal frameworks that govern scientific research and applications.

Instructions

1. Students will form groups of 3-4, particularly if they come from similar disciplines. In each group, choose one more specific branch of science to focus on (examples: cell biology or particle physics).
2. Using laptops or mobile devices, students should conduct quick research to identify as many government regulations as possible relevant to the chosen branch of science. Focus on regulations at the national level first and then look for state and local ones that might relate.
3. Document key regulations, agencies involved, and the purpose of these regulations. Pay attention to any recent changes or updates. Highlight key points that your group finds interesting or noteworthy.
4. Each group presents their findings to the class informally.

Whole Class Discussion

1. How diverse were the regulations and agencies across branches of science?
2. What are some of the broader implications of these regulations? Did they feel heavy? Too light?
3. Who gets to decide what these regulations are?