**Shared Research Topic Resources**

You will want to choose a shared research topic that you will draw upon for your modeling and demonstrations during read-alouds and minilessons. You will need to gather a few short books as well as a few articles. One engaging topic you could use is RATS! Students will learn that these animals are more complex than they think. The topic raises issues about animal testing, nutrition, public safety, public health, and the environment (including whether to use pesticides). Here are some recommended texts and articles to support this shared research topic:

**Books**

* *Oh Rats! The Story of Rats and People* by Albert Marrin
* *Oh, Yuck!* By Joy Masoff

**Articles**

* **“Rats to the Rescue in Cage Experiment”** [**http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/13/science/observatory-rats-have-empathy-study-finds.html?pagewanted=print**](http://www.nytimes.com/2011/12/13/science/observatory-rats-have-empathy-study-finds.html?pagewanted=print)
* **“Rats! Giant Rats Have Invaded the Florida Keys” <http://www.timeforkids.com/node/34351/print>**
* **“Manhattan in Darkness, 14 ft Flooding and Infrastructure Grinds to a Halt…and Now Come the Rats”**

[**http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2225132/Superstorm-Sandy-2012-New-York-darkness-14ft-flooding--come-rats.html**](http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2225132/Superstorm-Sandy-2012-New-York-darkness-14ft-flooding--come-rats.html)

* **“Why Rats Make Good Friends”**

[**http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756851&print=2**](http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756851&print=2)

* **“Rat Mind Meld”**

[**http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757962&print=2**](http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3757962&print=2)

* **“Putting Rats to Work”**

[**http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756765&print=2**](http://www.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=3756765&print=2)