

Explorify at home: supporting science teaching during school closures



Explorify, the award-winning, free digital resource for science teachers from the Wellcome Trust is here to help during this difficult period of school closures.

Explorify at home is a special series of science activity collections for children who are now learning at home. Based on the primary science curriculum, it is designed for teachers to share with parents and carers to do with their learners at home. The specially-selected activities are available without needing to create a login, so are easily accessible for all.

In each activity collection, we define activities by age and curriculum topics, but these collections are also suitable to do all together as a family of mixed-aged children. Or if your little scientist just wants to explore further, pick something from the other age sections for inspiration!

There are 11 activity collections linked to the primary curriculum and two bonus collections. Explore the natural world with collections on [Plants](#), [Habitats](#), the [Human body](#), [Classification](#) and [Fossils and evolution](#). Materials are covered in two collections, [Materials and their uses](#) and [Materials and their properties](#). And the physical world is covered by the [Sound](#) collection and the [Light](#) collection, by [Forces](#) and by Earth, seasons and time.

As a bonus, we have also created two collections to get your learners outdoors. Robbie Kirkman put together a wonderful collection on [Learning outdoors - living things](#), and our most recent collection, published to coincide with the RSPB's Big Schools' Birdwatch, is on [Birds](#).

#ScienceFromHome

The Explorify team is proud to have been involved in promoting the [#ScienceFromHome](#) campaign, which has support from our colleagues across the primary science community. We regularly post simple and thought-provoking questions and science challenges that can be undertaken by children wherever they are, with everyday objects at home or just by taking a walk outside.

What else is available?

[Explorify at home](#) and [Science From Home](#) have simply added to the core offering from Explorify: our collection of primary science activities that help teachers spark pupils' curiosity and to develop their thinking skills. Explorify now houses over 400 activities, with more being added each month. Once you have signed up (for free!) all of the activities are quick and easy to use and can slot into lesson plans for science or even be interspersed with other subjects (they're that fun!). >>

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Support for teachers on Explorify

As well as the activities, there are a number of resources available on Explorify's website to support primary teachers and science subject leaders in their professional journey. The [blog](#) provides regularly updated posts on teaching ideas and links to resources and CPD, the [teacher's](#)

[toolkit](#) is a source of useful resources for teachers to download and use in class and the [science leader toolkit](#) provides guidance and resources on how to lead science successfully.

There's no better time to have a look at the product and make the most of the resources there to support science learning in your school.

Get involved, sign up, and share the love of science with your class today!

<https://explorify.wellcome.ac.uk/>

Teachers can join the [Explorify Staff Room](#) and all can follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).



Starters for Science

Starters for Science is a series of five-minute videos to support teachers to get started with practical science enquiry.

They require minimal resources and can be used in school or at home. This means that teachers can do science enquiry with a class and any children who are at home can do the same lesson.

Each video is presented by a PSTT Fellow and includes:

- A question or scenario related to the real world
- Time for children to think about what they already know
- A demonstration of a starter practical activity
- Time for children to think of their own questions
- Ideas about what they could find out for themselves
- Encouragement to share what they found with others



The videos are intended to give children valuable practical experiences that they will then be able to draw on once they meet the relevant concepts in a more formal learning situation. As such, they are not age specific, nor directly aligned to any particular curriculum unit.

The videos are all available to watch on the [PSTT website](#). An overview of the video content and resources needed, and some supporting notes for teachers (including some of the science behind the video starters) are also available to download. Both

these documents, and the videos themselves are also available in Welsh language versions.

For further information, please visit <https://pstt.org.uk/resources/curriculum-materials/Starters-for-Science>.

Starters for Science were created by PSTT Outreach Director, Ali Eley and PSTT Regional Mentor, Kate Redhead.

