wellcome

Explorify

Using simple activities to develop curiosity, discussion and thinking skills in science and beyond!


Explorify is a totally FREE resource to support science teaching, both content and working scientifically.

Who can use Explorify?

EVERYBODY!

✓ Confident staff

✓ Not-so-confident staff

✓ Visiting and supply teachers

✓ Support staff

Explorify helps to…

- Inspire curiosity
- Develop thinking & reasoning
- Support enquiry

How can we use Explorify?

✓ Introduce new science topics

✓ Provide continuity between lessons

✓ Assess learning and progress

✓ Revisit prior learning

✓ Develop children’s skills in working scientifically

✓ Support cross-curricular learning

Enhance your science teaching and get your pupils thinking like scientists!

BETT award winner 2019

This video has no sound

Start your Explorify journey – it's free!

Enter your email

Sign up free

Dive into one of our favourite activities!

Sign up for lots more activities sure to inspire curiosity in your pupils. It's free!

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Prints

Take a much closer look at this familiar object. Can your class use their reasoning ski...

Ages 5 – 7

• Animals, including humans

ODD ONE OUT

The drinks menu

Put your class' observation skills to the test with these three amazing animals.

Ages 9 – 11

• Animals, including humans • Living things and

WHAT'S GOING ON?

Barnacle dive

Spark a conversation with this video showing a barnacle gosling taking a death-defying...

Ages 7 – 9

• Animals, including humans

Explorify

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Hi Thomas, try these short, no prep activities.

ODD ONE OUT

Types of leaves

Ages 5 – 7

• Plants

WHAT'S GOING ON?

What a fun guy

Ages 7 – 9

• Plants

THE BIG QUESTION

How long does it take for a leaf to rot?

Ages 9 – 11

• Living things and their habitats

• Plants

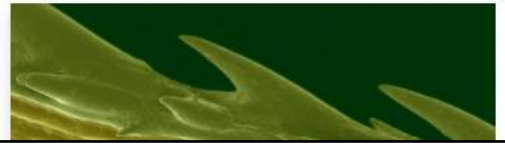
Show all activities

SAVED ACTIVITIES | MARKED AS DONE

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

All ground up

• Materials



ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Garden blades

Essential reading

Can outdoor learning help when you return to the classroom?

With schools heading back in June, how can we build on the incredible buzz around the range of science activities on offer for children outdoors?

Explorify and developing key skills in Year 6

Explorify

My dashboard | Activities | Toolkit | Blog | Thomas

Help your class think like scientists!

Latest info: Explorify during school closures

Search for activities | Science topic (all) | Year group (all) | Activity type (all) | Advanced (all)

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Hidden depths

Take a closer look at this everyday object by zooming in and out to see it differently.

Ages 7 – 9

• Sound

Save | Mark as done?

THE BIG QUESTION

Can microorganisms be good for you?

Plan a fun investigation and get your class thinking about microorganisms.

Ages 9 – 11

• Living things and their habitats

Save | Mark as done?

THE BIG QUESTION

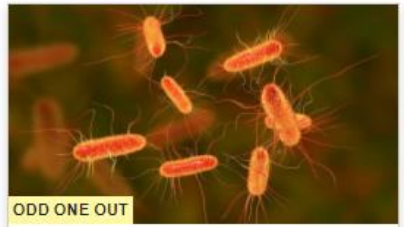
How clean are your hands?

Plan a fun investigation and get your class thinking about personal hygiene.

Ages 5 – 7

• Animals, including humans

Save | Mark as done?



ODD ONE OUT

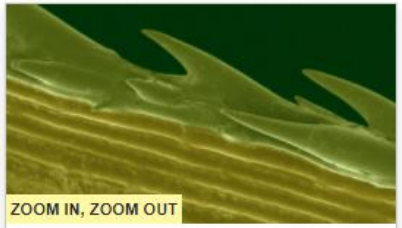
Small but powerful

Put your class' observation skills to the test with these three microorganisms.

Ages 9 – 11

• Living things and their habitats

Save | Mark as done?



ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Garden blades

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Roll up, roll up

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Healthy skin

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

All ground up

See all activities

ODD ONE OUT

Weird walkers

Save | Mark as done?

Classroom view

Activity overview

15 mins Ages 7 – 9

Science topics:
Animals, including humans, Living things and their habitats

Put your class' observation skills to the test with these three weird walkers. This activity is great for promoting observation and discussion skills.

Run the activity

1. Show the three images above and ask everyone to come up with as many similarities and differences as they can. If they get stuck, prompt them to think about:

- appearance
- what they do
- where they might be found

2. Then, everyone needs to decide which one is the odd one out and why. Encourage a reason for every answer and there is no wrong answer!

Top Tips: How to run Odd One Out activities

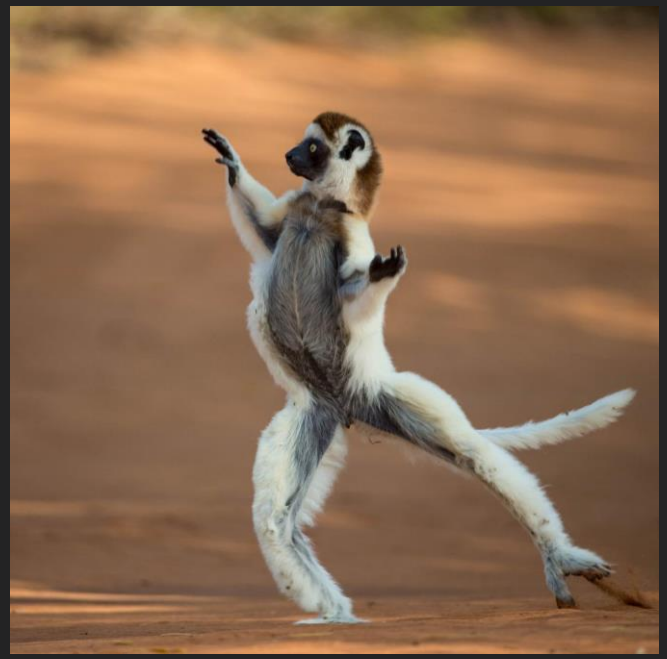
Background science

The three animals are lemurs, which are tree-dwelling primates that are unique to Madagascar; crabs, which are invertebrates and do not have a skeleton but have a hard outer shell; and inchworms, which are the caterpillar of the geometer moth.

Take it further

Show your class clips of these animals in action. See how a crab scuttles across a beach, watch a dancing lemur leap around and observe the inchworm slinking along a branch. Ask your class if they can think of other animals that walk in unexpected ways.

Weird walkers



See all activities

ZOOM IN, ZOOM OUT

Bonkers bubbles

Save | Mark as done?

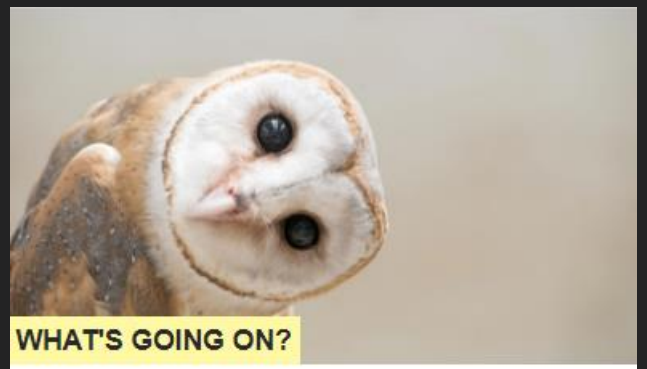
Classroom view

Activity overview

15 mins Ages 5 – 7

Science topics:
Materials

15 minute wonders!



WHAT'S GOING ON?

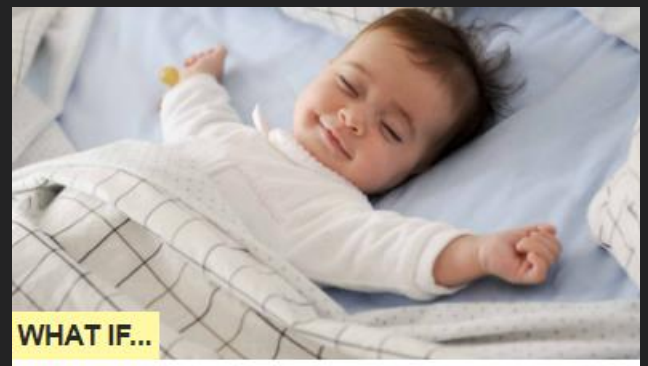
The sound of silence

Spark a conversation with this video showing an owl flying almost soundlessly. Can your...

Ages 7 – 9

• Animals, including humans • Sound

Saved Mark as done?



WHAT IF...

Humans hibernated?

Challenge the class to think about hibernation.

Ages 5 – 7

• Animals, including humans

Save Mark as done?

THE BIG QUESTION

Who should own space?

In this activity, children decide how space should be owned by planning an investigatio...

Ages 9 – 11

• Space

Save Mark as done?

Investigations with a twist!

MYSTERY BAG

Attracting objects

Start a conversation about these magnetic, and not so magnetic, materials.

Ages 9 – 11

• Forces

Save Mark as done?

MISSION SURVIVE

Ice lollies

A hands-on activity – whose creation is best adapted for classroom survival?

Ages 7 – 9

• States of matter

Save Mark as done?

PROBLEM SOLVERS

Unusual plant pots

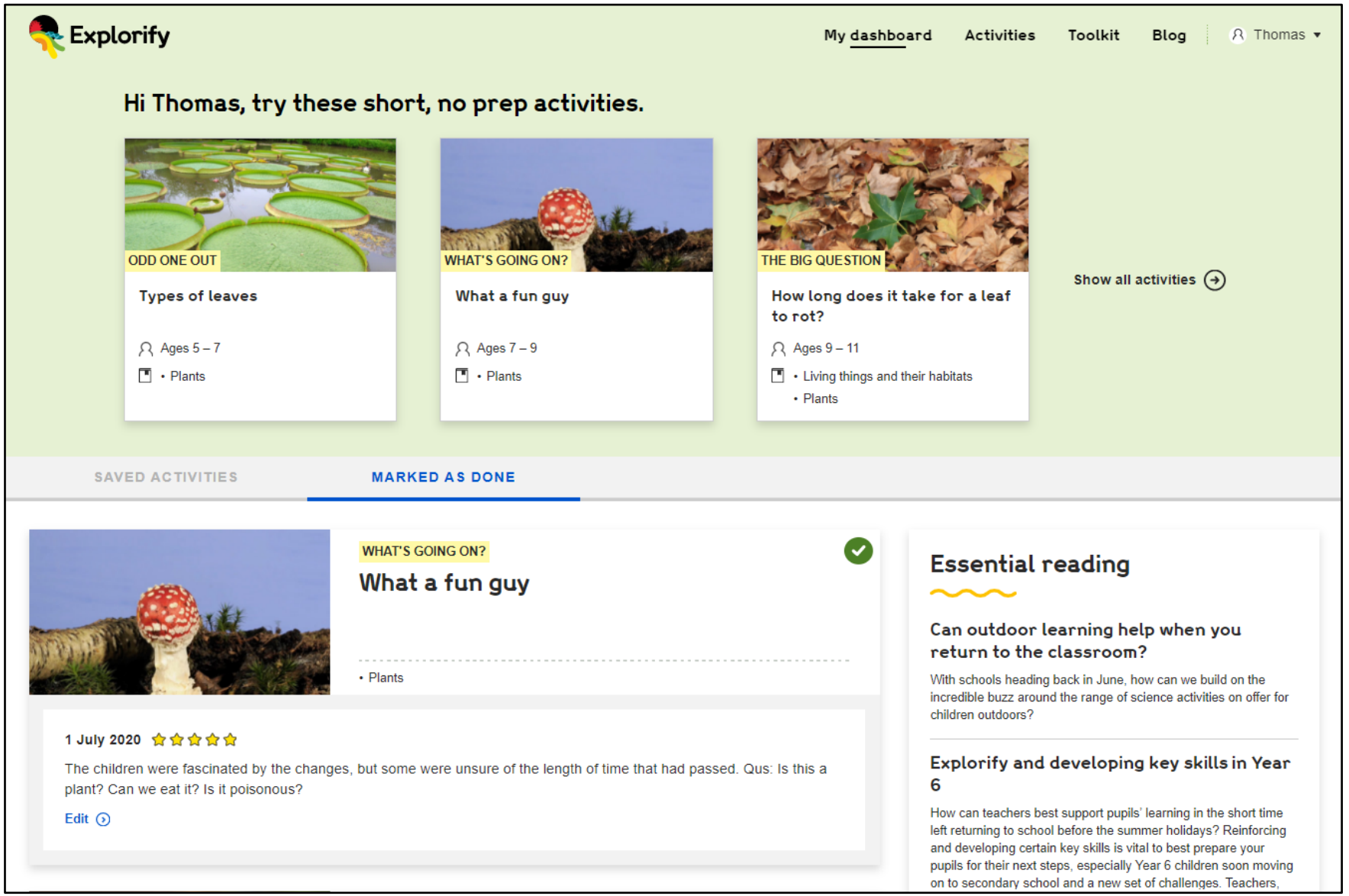
Get creative with recycling materials into unusual plant pots for seedlings!

Ages 5 – 7

• Materials • Plants

Save Mark as done?

My dashboard



Blog

Search Explorify blog

Explorify at home: Forces

This collection of activities about forces is ideal to do at home with your little explorers. Enjoy a good afternoon of science each week!&n...

Explorify during school closures

Find out how we are working to support teachers and children with their science during school closures and phased reopenings.

Explorify at home: Habitats

This collection of activities about habitats is ideal to do at home with your little explorers. Enjoy a good afternoon of science each...

Latest from Explorify

Explorify at home: Learning outdoors - living things

Children love learning outdoors and the positive effects on their mental and physical wellbeing have been well documented. This collection takes your children's learning outdoors with a focus on living things.

teaching science seasonal

Top topics

teaching science seasonal
Explorify at home
professional development
science leader top tips hot topic
courses resources
using Explorify

Toolkit – Teaching science

Explorify

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Toolkit

Become a confident teacher or science leader with tips from our toolkit and discover downloadable resources to help you make the most of Explorify in your school.

TEACHING SCIENCE | LEADING SCIENCE

Introduce Explorify to your school

Staffroom presentation

The best way to share Explorify isn't to tell people, but to show them. Here's a presentation to help you introduce Explorify to colleagues. Learn more on the blog.

Download presentation

Getting started

Here are some, hints, tips and FAQs to get you started. Pass it to colleagues for an at-a-glance reference for all things Explorify.

Download FAQ

Classroom decoration kit

Stickers

These Explorify-themed stickers can be printed onto labels/sticky-backed paper and used to complete your activity tracker poster, or however you like! Learn more on the blog.

Download stickers

How to think scientifically poster

Help staff and students understand the different ways you can think like a scientist, from recalling information, to devising tests and evaluating results.

Download poster

Certificates

Celebrate the great science your children are doing with these certificates. You could award them to the whole class, children who have worked well in a team, or even to individual top Explorifiers!

Download certificates

Activity tracker

Follow our path through different activities and see your class develop their scientific thinking skills! The stickers are designed to be used with this poster to see your progress and fit best on an A2 poster.

Download poster

Support for teachers

Planning documents

Have you been wondering how to effectively plan science lessons to encapsulate knowledge, understanding and skills? Take a look at our planning examples for inspiration. Learn more on the blog.

Download planning

Enquiry maps

Explorify activities can help children practice and improve key skills they will need for science enquiry. Find out how with our example enquiry maps. Learn more on the blog.

Download enquiry

Vocabulary list

As you teach science you'll be looking for certain words and phrases from your little scientists. Here's a full list of the words they should be using, divided by age group.

Download vocab

Evidencing inspiration

Ever been asked to record all the great science learning your pupils are undertaking? Here's some inspiration for low-stress evidencing when using Explorify.

Download evidencing

Support for science leaders

Primary Science Special Issue: Explorify

Explorify teamed up with ASE to produce a special edition of their primary science journal. Hear from other science leaders how they've used Explorify in school.

Toolkit – Leading science

Getting started

During your first year as a science leader you can make some big steps. However, it is important not to try and do everything at once. Prioritise your tasks by creating a set of clear and manageable objectives in a subject action plan and focusing on some core baseline activities.

Action plan

Put simply, an action plan is where you set out your main objectives for the year, framed under key priority areas (themes). We recommend that you keep things simple at first and have no more than 5 key priority areas. As a starting point, it makes sense to align your priorities with core elements such as 'leadership & management', 'teaching & learning', 'assessment & progress', 'inclusion' and 'enrichment'.

If however you have access to your school development/improvement plan (SDP/SIP), you can align your key priority areas with this; there may even be a school template for you to use that includes broad action areas. This will ensure members of SLT are on board and your leadership is in line with that of the overall school.

To create the objectives for each priority area, be guided by the valuable information you gathered in your initial subject audit and surveys. Think: What issue has been highlighted? What are the key things (objectives) that if achieved would address this issue? For each objective, you should then identify 2-3 key actions you will need to take to achieve it, including the necessary personnel, time and resources. It can also be useful to set out termly markers (i.e. what you want to see at certain stages), which you can use to break down the actions into achievable chunks and then measure your progress against them.

Subject leader action plan (blank) (docx) Download

Subject leader action plan (completed) (pdf) Download

Join a local science leader network

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

Rolling activities

As your first year progresses, there are a few other important 'rolling' activities that will support you and your school to improve science teaching and learning.

Monitoring: book scrutiny

Monitoring: lesson observations & drop-ins

Monitoring: pupil voice

Resource and budget management

Ideas for events and enrichment

Take it further

Having established the foundations in your first year, it is vital that you continue to oversee, monitor and develop these core 'baseline' and 'rolling' activities. Begin each year with your subject audit and pupil/teacher voice surveys to re-establish your overview of science and set updated objectives in your action plan. Your confidence as a subject leader will have increased, as will your subject knowledge and you can really reflect on your progress, embed those things that have been working well and adapt those things that have not gone as planned.

If you remain in position as science leader for the next few years, then you have an excellent opportunity to really develop and innovate science teaching and learning at your school. Grab this chance to put your own personal stamp on the subject; the more personally invested you are, the more you will enjoy your leadership role. Here are a few suggestions for ways that you can develop and strengthen science in your school:

Look for tweaks in core areas

Be innovative


Explorify Staff Room
Closed group
Discussion
Members
Events
Videos
Photos
Files
Group insights
Explorify
Staff Room
Change Group Photo
Linked Group · Explorify
Joined
Notifications
Share
Explorify
Tweets 177
Following 419
Followers 570
Likes 146
Following
Explorify
@ExplorifySchool Follows you
Free programme for primary schools, to spark children's curiosity and develop thinking skills. By @WTEducation
explorify.wellcome.ac.uk
Joined December 2016
Tweet to
Message
26 Followers you know
Tweets
Tweets & replies
Media
Pinned Tweet
Explorify @ExplorifySchool · Sep 19
What if?... Why?... Explorify! Explorify is free, easy and requires very little preparation. Please share with your teacher friends
Who to follow · Refresh · View all
Manchester Sci Fest @Mc...
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SP Energy Networks @SP...
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Follow
Find people you know
Trends for you · Change
#FridayFeeling


Explorify in action!
Watch our video

Explorify

Thank you and enjoy using Explorify!

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

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