ILLUSTRATING SCIENCE RESOURCE BOOK

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES
TEACHERS NOTES

THE HOUSE OF ILLUSTRATION
ILLUSTRATED IDEAS FOR INCORPORATING CREATIVE PRACTICE INTO THE KS2 SCIENCE CURRICULUM

ILLUSTRATING SCIENCE RESOURCE:

INTRODUCTION

Since its earliest days, science has been dependent on illustration. From recording findings to developing theories, from communicating complex ideas to explaining processes, scientists have used illustration to share and advance their – and our - understanding of the world.

Illustrating Science is the House of Illustration's pioneering primary school project funded by the Wellcome Trust, to explicitly link science and illustration in the classroom.

We invited six illustrators and two scientists into three London primary schools to tackle Key Stage 2 science topics using a variety of illustration techniques. Six classes experienced hands-on science, learned new illustration skills and came up with their own illustrated science resources.

Pupils found out more about the real worlds of science and illustration, and learned how to communicate the results of their investigations and complex processes in visually effective ways.

"I know illustration helps explain science now. If someone looked at our work in the project they would understand it through the drawings"

Y5 pupil participant

Why Use Illustration To Support Science Learning?

Illustration has always been a vital part of the development of scientific understanding. Long before the invention of photography, all scientific enquiries were recorded through drawing.
Even in the photographic/digital age, illustration plays an important role in science understanding and communication: from medical drawings to scientific diagrams, illustration aims to convey important scientific information to its intended audience.

Through creating illustrations, children learn not only to look more closely at their subject, but also to communicate the results of their enquiries, experiments, observations, research, scientific facts and theories to others.
Visual communication goes hand in hand with verbal communication and you will find lots of examples here of how to promote both while learning KS2 biological science topics.

Creating high quality visual outcomes raises confidence, shares knowledge more widely, can be used for assessment as well as dissemination through assemblies, school displays and parents' evenings.

Combining illustration and science learning supports visual learners and creative thinkers, a new angle on science learning is promoted and high-quality illustrations can actually become science resources – as in our examples from the three schools.

THIS RESOURCE

"Illustrating Science has encouraged me to think of using different aspects of art/illustration to explain ideas, concepts and processes in science teaching and learning."
Teacher participant

The projects we delivered significantly benefited children's science learning. By focusing on ways to clearly record and communicate their scientific enquiries using visual means, they took ownership of their findings and this sparked off a thirst for further research and investigation.

By creating their own classroom resources, the children also took pride in knowing others could learn from their illustrations. This resource has been developed directly from the project successes and is aimed at inspiring and enabling you to replicate some of them with your classes.

"It seemed impossible to combine science with illustration at the beginning, as science is all about doing experiments, but it's very easy to put together. Like fact sheets have a lot of illustrations and science. And scientists use illustration for classification and to show what they're doing. I didn't know that before."
Y5 pupil participant

This resource is available to download from www.houseofillustration.org.uk

HOW TO USE THESE RESOURCES

These resources have been designed by our three illustrators to help you teach science with added creativity. They have been organised by science topic, but are also very adaptable for other topics (or subjects).
To make the most of this resource, select your chosen topic and download all the pages, have a look at our Project Galleries for examples, and either use or adapt our ideas to suit your class's needs.

They include step-by-step instructions, templates and worksheets to download and even hand-drawn comics to use as an exciting topic-starter. There are lots of inspiring ideas to get your class illustrating their science learning – and learning more science through illustration.

We have also included some useful links to science and illustration resources in each section.

Curriculum Links

The ideas in this resource are designed to support learning and teaching of the following:

Science SC2 Life Processes and Living Things

Humans and other animals: Circulation
Green plants: growth & nutrition, reproduction
Variation & Classification: Living things and their environment, adaptation, micro-organisms

ICT KS2

Finding things out
Exchanging & sharing information

Art & Design KS2

Exploring & developing ideas
Investigating & making art, craft and design
Evaluating and developing work

KS2 English

Speaking & Listening: vocabulary, meaning, topic relevance, identify key points, ask relevant questions, identify language for specific purposes, group discussion
Reading & Writing: understanding texts, reading for information, appreciation of non-fiction, composition, planning and drafting

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