

Earth Explorers Club

A series of science activities that consider aspects of environmental science, aimed at children of lower primary school age (5-7 years). Ideal for use in a weekly club.

A TYPICAL SESSION

The activity leader shares the environmental focus that is being explored this week.

A short video clip/website link is viewed to explore the concept and consider the relevant science, or to help understand the challenge better. A fact sheet is also provided for each child. Children should be encouraged to discuss their own ideas as much as possible. These fact sheets are then taken home by the children to encourage them to share their findings with their family and to take their learning further where possible.

Using the activity sheet, the leader then sets the children a challenge linked to the environmental topic discussed.

The activity sheet provides the leader with a resource list, suggestions on how to set up the activity, key facts/science and questions/further learning. The activities give the children an opportunity to make something to explore and to discover more about the topic. It may be appropriate for the children to take home some of the things that are made. This depends on the activity and any health and safety risks it may pose. This must be decided with reference to the school's policy.

Depending on the age of children in the group, the level of support needed to carry out the activity will vary, for example with using scissors for cutting or adding paper clips. If the group contains a range of ages, pairing younger children with older ones for support may be beneficial.

The activity leader brings the children together at the end of the activity to discuss the challenges the children have faced, to share their successes and to discuss what they have discovered from the activity.

EXTRA INFORMATION - SETTING UP A CLUB

■ Children's University.

*These club activities are validated by the [Children's University](#) and as such count towards accredited learning for any children taking part in the scheme. The stamp code a child will need to add activities to their online passport is **Orange 6034**. This can be shared with the child after each of the 8 sessions and written in their Passport to Learning.*

■ Select the children.

Group leaders should aim for a mix of race, gender and ability.

■ Number of children: up to 12, to allow for different groups sizes.

Lollipop sticks could be used to determine groupings and allow children to work in different groups each time. Numbers written on the bottom of lollipop sticks, selected at random by each child, determine the group.

RESOURCES AND PREPARATION

ACTIVITY	SCIENCE AREA	EQUIPMENT
Bursting with life	Plant diversity: Making and planting biodegradable plant pots	Newspaper, stiff plastic cups (beakers), soil/compost, wildflower seed mix, water, PE hoops/rope tied into loops
Buzzing around	Pollination /magnetism: Making a hovering pollinator model with magnets	Shoe boxes, bar magnets, paperclips, thread, sticky tape, lightweight paper (tissue paper), scissors, pencil crayons, card
Exploring the oceans	Ocean exploration: Making a sinking diver	2l plastic bottles, pen lids (with pocket clips), mounting putty (e.g. blu tack), paperclips, paper, coloured pens/pencils, sticky tape, divers cut from thin plastic, beakers, water
Going under ground	Healthy soil: Making a wormery	2l plastic bottles, nail file to smooth bottle edges if necessary, soil, coloured sand, leaves, water, worms (collected from school grounds), dark coloured paper, sticky tape, scissors
High in the clouds	Importance of air: Making and flying paper aeroplanes	Paper (a choice of sizes), coloured pens or pencils, paper clips, tape measure
Icy blast	Polar habitats, freezing and melting: Rescuing an Arctic explorer frozen in ice	Lego™ figures (or similar), small containers such as sandwich boxes or margarine tubs, salt, food colouring, magnifying glasses, cups of water (different temperatures)
In a spin	Seed dispersal: Making a paper spinner	Sycamore seeds (if available - not essential), paper/spinner templates, paperclips, scissors, pencil crayons
Power up	Alternative energy sources: Making a wind turbine	Paper (various types and sizes) cut into squares, scissors, rulers, pencils, dressmaker pins, pencils with rubber tops, modelling clay or mounting putty, class fan