

# A Scientist Just Like Me

A Scientist just like me



Raise awareness of diversity in science-related jobs with the Primary Science Teaching Trust's relatable free resource

## AT A GLANCE

- Exciting content designed to raise awareness of scientific careers
- Developed by award-winning primary science teachers
- High-quality, job-specific information insights for raising awareness and increasing participation
- Explains job roles in a digestible, exciting and easy to understand format

REVIEWED BY: JOHN DABELL



A recent report from The Ogden Trust and The University of Manchester describes the realities of primary pupils' science learning. It says that children do not get the opportunity to identify with role models and may not see science as something for them because unconscious bias and stereotypes continue to exist in displays around schools and also in outdated books in libraries, images on websites and images selected by teachers for the resources they create.

The Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT) has just the answer. 'A Scientist Just Like Me' is designed to raise awareness of diversity in science-related jobs and provides illustrated examples of a wide range of science-based careers from astrophysicist to zoologist and plenty of jobs in between, many of which children will never have heard of before.

This free resource consists of a series of short slideshows telling the story of a contemporary scientists and the work they do. These are hugely relatable, authentic and aspirational. A simple search facility allows you to filter according to job type, gender, ethnic heritage, LGBTQ+, disability and whether they are STEM Ambassadors. They can also be searched by different primary science topics. The person selected then shares details about their work and their everyday lives, describing their job, what they like about it, how their work makes the world a better place, and the challenges they have faced on their career journeys. The

slides also include free supporting resources and links to follow-up interest and explore further.

They are all very personable and down-to-earth, and keep things simple by focusing on the skills, attitudes and habits that are needed to carry out the work, rather than baffle children with science.

The slideshows are perfect discussion prompts for encouraging children to imagine and discuss what it might be like to do a particular job. These could easily be integrated into classwork as part of science, PSHE and assemblies.

It's an impressive collection that is sure to inspire and get your class thinking in different ways. It could be better still if there were videos of the scientists themselves talking but still, these are terrific insights.

The resource is timely as Ofsted's latest research review of science reminds us that a high-quality science education is rooted in an authentic understanding of what the subject actually is. This includes learning about the diversity of approaches used to establish knowledge in science and the differences between each science and the people 'doing' them for a job.

The PSTT is a shining beacon of excellence in primary science and has a wealth of expertise and this resource is well worth sharing with pupils to motivate, inspire and excite them. It promotes a range of disciplines and allows children to develop an identity with scientific jobs from an early age.

teach  
PRIMARY

## VERDICT

- ✓ Provides pupils with fascinating insights into the careers of living scientists
- ✓ A valuable resource showcasing the diversity of scientific opportunities in the real world
- ✓ Enriches awareness of possible careers in STEM
- ✓ Helps close the opportunity gaps in STEM for all pupils
- ✓ Builds engagement in science and widens access and participation
- ✓ Improves appreciation of the range and diversity of pathways pupils can pursue across the scientific disciplines
- ✓ Raises teachers' awareness of diversity, equity and inclusion

## UPGRADE IF...

You are looking for a resource to drive progress and develop children's science capital, feed their ambitions, and quash stereotypes.