



## FREE RESOURCES

Pictures for talk in primary science



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**A picture can be a very good stimulus for children to engage in effective talk in science. Using pictures is an inclusive approach which facilitates high levels of participation. Pictures can also be used as a starting point for inquiry. The discussions the children have will generate questions that they want to investigate.**

Asking the children carefully chosen questions about the picture will support them with learning to:

- construct explanations and link their ideas with evidence
- make confident challenges to the ideas of others
- explore scientific terminology and use it with genuine understanding

Pictures for talk in science activities are designed to be very open ended and usable with any age of children. The activities can be done as a quick ten minute starter, or extended into a longer and more in-depth lesson.

### WHAT TO DO

Download the image on page **15** by following the link and either display on a whiteboard or give out printed copies. Ask the children to discuss, in groups of three, the following questions:

#### **CAN YOU SEE AN ANIMAL IN THIS PICTURE?**

#### **WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE? WHY DOES IT LOOK LIKE THIS?**

This is a spiny leaf insect. They are native to Australia and can grow to be as long as 20 cm. Their body and leg segments resemble leaves and they also curve their bodies to accentuate their leaf-like appearance. Their bodies are covered in thorn-like spikes for defence and for camouflage. Spiny leaf insects can be green, like this one, but they can be a creamy colour and many are brown which gives the appearance of a dead leaf (see the picture below). They don't bite or sting but they can spray an odour which deters predators.

Other questions to generate and promote thinking and explaining:

What do the animals' legs and its body remind you of?

What might want to eat this animal?

How does the animal stop other animals eating it?

How many legs does it have? What kind of animal do you think it is?

What do you think it eats?

### FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION IDEAS

Have a look at other pictures of insects that camouflage themselves by looking like leaves or twigs. Discuss the features of the insect, and the similarities and differences between them all. Use the questions above to prompt the discussion. Here are three pictures you might want to use. Large versions can be downloaded by clicking on the image on page **15**.



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