



Explorify

What's new?

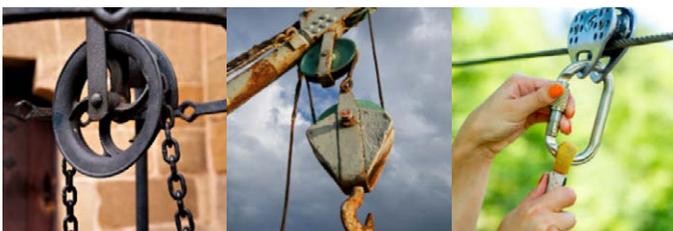
The Explorify team at PSTT has been busy! The Explorify website is packed with new activities, Helpful Reads, and our series of science topic planning support videos.

New Activities

Explorify's collection of new Odd One Out activities cover all age groups and a range of topics, including **Wonderful women in science**, which highlights the achievements of three brilliant women scientists. Odd One Out activities are designed to promote talk and higher order thinking in the classroom and provide a great formative or summative assessment tool. You can use them to find out what children already know or to assess what they have learnt further into a topic. All of the activities for younger children will work just as well with older children.

We have upgraded the notes to go with the activities. In the background science we have added a **Watch out for** section which flags up children's common misconceptions. The **Take it further** sections have been strengthened to give more ideas about how to use the activity to develop scientific enquiry in the classroom. For example, **What is inside flowers?** looks at reproduction in flowering plants and suggests how you can dissect flowers and reveal the different parts, as well as how you can use drama to help the children understand pollination.

We have expanded the range of concepts covered in different topics. For example, under the topic of Forces, we have the brand new **Making work easier** which compares three different **pulleys**.



Odd One Out: Making work easier



Odd One Out: Adapted to eat ants

There are three new activities for Adaptation and Evolution. **Adapted to eat ants** compares three fascinating mammals which all eat ants or termites. Found in different parts of the world, similar adaptations have evolved in each of the species, enabling each one to survive in its own habitat. **Fantastic foxes** has two different images of an Arctic fox, one in winter and another in summer, as well as the familiar red fox. Children could then research fox adaptations, or those of another animal. **The drinks menu** shows three very different animals, two of which have adapted to change ice, snow or water vapour into liquid water that they can drink.



Odd One Out: The drinks menu

To find out more about Explorify's newest Odd One Out activities, have a look at this **four minute read**. For guidance about how to run an Odd One Out in the classroom, have look at this **blog**.

➡ **Please note: to view these linked activities, you will need to be registered with Explorify. Sign up here for FREE.**



Making maths meaningful with Explorify

Helpful Reads for Science Leads

Where might an unplanned Explorify journey lead?

What do you do if you have a spare fifteen minutes with your class? Instead of games or tidying up or an extra moment to read, what about diving into an Explorify activity? You could follow suggestions from the children or build up your own stack of Explorify favourites on the 'My dashboard' page ready to dip into later. If you are unsure about what to pick, you can always go for one of the suggestions given on your Explorify homepage.

In this [Helpful Read](#), Robin James describes how a more playful, ad hoc, adventurous approach to Explorify can reap unexpected rewards.

Preparing for Ofsted

As science is a core subject, many schools are reporting that it is one of the subjects commonly chosen by Inspectors in England to examine in detail. This is known as a "deep dive". If you are the Science Subject Leader at your school, you should expect a deep dive when Ofsted visit, and there are things you can do to prepare for this.

In this [Helpful Read](#), Jo Moore shares her recent experience of an Ofsted inspection at her school. She describes what happened over the course of the inspection and some of the questions she was asked as a science subject leader – about the school's science

curriculum, and about progression in both substantive and disciplinary knowledge. At the end, Jo gives her five top tips for subject leaders to ensure they are prepared in advance of the school getting "the call".

Make maths meaningful with Explorify

Find out how Explorify activities can provide great contexts for developing and applying maths skills. In this [Helpful Read](#), Robin James picks out a collection of activities that give children opportunities for estimating, weighing, measuring distance, counting, and identifying shapes.

Top 10 Tips for new Science Leaders

This [Helpful Read](#) has been updated and is a great starting point for anyone taking on the leadership of primary science.

Coming soon!

We are about to launch a brand new category of activities, **'Have you ever?'**

Due to be published in June 2022, these activities are designed to make children the experts by relating their everyday experiences to science learning. Based on the principles of the [Primary Science Capital Teaching Approach](#), the aim is to get children talking about simple experiences and encourage them to see themselves as science experts with a valuable contribution to make.

A sneak preview of two of the Have you ever? activities



Have you ever heard your neighbours watching TV?



Have you ever noticed a plant growing in cracks in the pavement?

➔ If you haven't yet registered for Explorify, [SIGN UP FOR FREE HERE!](#)

Free Explorify Planning Support Videos

Would you like support finding just the right Explorify activities to enhance your science planning? Join an Explorify Engagement Leader in one or more of our free, short, friendly sessions to find out what new activities we have and how these can support science teaching in your classroom and across your school. You will also be provided with a handy downloadable planning document. The sessions are a great way for science subject leaders to support all staff who teach science.

The planning support sessions are:

- Suitable for all classroom teachers
- Relevant to all four UK curricula
- Based around topics and ages of children
- 30 minutes in length – we know you're busy

You can book to join a live session where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and find out more from the Explorify Engagement Leader running the session. If you cannot attend live, don't worry as all the sessions are recorded and you can access them at any time. [Click here](#) to see the list of upcoming live sessions and the list of recorded sessions. We are gradually building up the collection – watch this space as we plan to cover all curriculum topics before too long!

Keep in Touch!

Let us know what you think about what's new at Explorify as it will help us as we create more great activities and supporting materials for CPD. Contact us using [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or our [Facebook](#) staffroom.

