



Free resources

Pictures for talk in primary science

A picture can be a very good stimulus for children to engage in effective talk in science.

Using pictures is an inclusive approach that 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 overleaf by following the link, and either display on a whiteboard or give children printed copies. Ask the children to work in groups of three to discuss the following questions:

DO YOU THINK ROBOTS ARE BETTER AT
MAKING POPCORN THAN HUMANS?
WHY DO YOU THINK THIS?

Other questions to generate and promote thinking and explaining

Is this robot alive? How do we know if something is alive?

Does this robot have senses? Which ones?

What can it do that a human can do?

*What **can't** it do that a human can do?*

*What can it do that a human **can't** do?*

The above could lead to some philosophical discussion. You could ask:

Are robots a good thing? Or a bad thing? Or neither?
Why do you think this?

What things are there that humans can do that robots will never be able to do? How do you know this?

Some background information about a household robot like this one:

It is deemed to have the intelligence of a four year old child.

It has numerous sensors to enable it to define and respond to its environment.

It reacts to ambient light, sound and movement.

It is designed to enable people to be more productive at home.

[A PICTURE OF A ROBOT MAKING A PANCAKE CAN BE VIEWED BY CLICKING HERE](#)



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