



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

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.



[Download here:](#)

WHAT TO DO

Download the image overleaf 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:

What do you think laid these eggs?

Why do you think this?

Other questions to generate and promote thinking and explaining

The eggs were laid by a cobra. The most common type of female cobra lays between ten and thirty eggs at once. They lay them on the ground, usually in a dip or hole. The shells of the eggs are softer than a chicken's. The cobra guards the eggs from predators (e.g. the mongoose or wild boar) until they hatch, which takes around two months. The biggest type of cobra is a King Cobra which can be up to six metres long and can swim and climb trees as well as move extremely fast along the ground.

What do you notice about the shells of the eggs? (focus on size, colour, texture, hardness)

Where are the eggs?

What kind of animals lay eggs?

Why did the animal lay so many eggs?

Follow-on discussion ideas

Find pictures of cobras guarding their eggs and of the hatchlings emerging from their eggs. Discuss what threats there are to the eggs and to the hatchlings (predators, weather) and how the parent cobra protects their eggs, and how the hatchlings protect themselves (they are independent and fully venomous from birth).



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Why & How *Autumn 2019*