Great Science Share for Schools

SSERC are delighted to be Great Science Share for Schools Regional Champions in 2022. We are pleased to be able to share the latest update as we build up to the campaign celebration on Tuesday 14th June!

What is the Great Science Share for Schools?

The Great Science Share for Schools was launched in 2016 and inspires 5-14 year olds to ask, investigate and share the scientific questions that really matter to them. Focusing on the importance of sustainability, GSSfS 2022 will have a Climate Action theme, encouraging learners to ask questions to explore how their actions might make a difference to the world around them. The Great Science Share for Schools promotes learner-led enquiry. Young scientists across the UK can ask scientific questions that they're interested in, or link to the Climate Action theme. Learners gather evidence to help answer those questions and then share their questions and findings with others. It is free to take part when teachers register through the website for access to guidance, resources and regular news updates.

SIGN UP NOW TO REGISTER FOR THE 2022 CAMPAIGN. YOU WILL THEN BE ABLE TO ACCESS A RANGE OF RESOURCES.

I'm a Scientist get me out of here Great Science Share Zone

There is a brilliant opportunity for Great Science Share schools to take part in the I'm a Scientist get me out of here Great Science Share Zone. If you have not come across it before, I'm a Scientist is an online, learner-led STEM enrichment activity. It connects schools with scientists through energetic, real-time, text-based chats.

The Great Science Share Zone will be specially designed to support learners to put their own scientific questions to experts - seeing themselves as scientists by making links between how they work scientifically in school with how the scientists in the Zone work.

The Great Science Share Zone runs from 9th May 2022–17th June 2022. To find out more and register click here. To read our blog click here.

Physics - Great Phizzi Share

The Great Phizzi Share resources launched nationally with a Webinar on 3rd May 2022.

The resources include three physics themed guided enquiries - linked to ideas about climate change and climate action. There are opportunities for 5-7 year olds to make observations over time, working as climate scientists; 7-11 year olds can carry out a comparative test to find which reflective materials can be used to grow plants more effectively and 9-14 year olds can investigate transparency of materials to choose appropriate coverings for growing food in polytunnels. The pilot showed that all enquiries really supported learners in gathering and using data to answer scientific questions, as well as inspiring them to ask their own scientific questions around the themes.

All enquiries have teacher notes, presentations to use in the classroom and supporting resources. >>

Chemistry - Doffa's Reindeer

This guided enquiry is inspired by the text 'Doffa's Reindeer' by Jules Pottle; it is the story of a family in the frozen north.

Doffa is a reindeer herder who lives within the arctic circle, where the land is covered in snow all winter long. Food is hard to find, but the reindeer manage well enough on the lichens which lie below the blanket of snow. As always, the passing of time brings changes: Doffa grows old and his granddaughter, Ibba, comes to care for him. The town is changing too and Ibba fears their traditional way of life might not survive…

Sharing the story encourages learners to think about air pollution in the arctic circle, inspiring them to think about and investigate air quality in their own environment. Schools will be able to access a video of Jules reading her book, a video of a demonstration and the enquiry set up - also presented by Jules, along with teacher notes about how to support and develop the different stages of the enquiry in the classroom. Learners make their own particulate traps using plastic wallets and Vaseline and carry out a comparative test in their local environment to compare the number of particulates in the air in different locations, encouraging lots of scientific questions about clean air.

Biology - Great Big BioBlitz

Encourage learners to explore the life in their school grounds or local area with this BioBlitz guided enquiry from the University of St Andrews. Prompt learners to ask questions then get outside to find, identify, and record living things. The data will provide an interesting insight into the habitats and organisms present in the local environment. The results can then be submitted to be part of a citizen science project. Learners may be inspired to plan ways to encourage more nature to make a home in their local environment. Get outside and get exploring! A new Great Big BioBlitz video will be released each week for you to share in the classroom - a great way to introduce a wide range of wildlife to your learners.

Great Science Skills Starters

Our new collection of resources to support the development of scientific skills in the classroom is now live on the website.

The Great Science Skills Starters form a collection of eight direct to classroom videos and supporting resources, that support learners to develop a range of skills required to work through the scientific process. The videos aim to model the skill, provide an opportunity for learners to practise the skill and finally challenge them to apply the skill when carrying out their own enquiries.

Micropoetry competition

Creative Manchester, in partnership with the Centre for New Writing and the Great Science Share for Schools, is running a Micropoetry competition themed around 'Climate Change'. To enter, participants are invited to write a climate-themed micropoem (280 characters) and tweet their poem with the hashtag #micropoem22. To make the competition more accessible, email entries will also be accepted. Please email your micropoem to creative@manchester.ac.uk. <<

watch micropoetry video