

Science & Drama Activities

This is a quick run-down of the drama activities I use in class. For topic-linked ideas for each activity, take a look at the *Science & Drama Inspiration* handout.

If you have any ideas of your own or try out any of them in your own settings, please do get in touch, I'd love to hear how it went!

Documentaries

Children create documentaries explaining scientific knowledge or concepts. They can carry out some research first to find their information or use what they already know. This activity has great scope for pupils to practise their ICT skills, using filming and video editing software/apps. There's also opportunities to develop their speaking and listening skills when considering the audience for their documentary; how would they express themselves differently if the show was for young children as opposed to adults with an interest in their subject?

Newsflash

Children deliver a newsflash-style bulletin with an update on a 'new' story. This could be explaining their findings from a recent investigation, or they could imagine how a news bulletin from the past would go, for example one from the time of Mary Anning when she was sharing her fossil discoveries, or Copernicus trying to convince people the Earth moves around the Sun, not the other way round. As newsflashes tend to be short and snappy, this could be a good way for pupils to select which information precisely is important in order to portray everything they need to in a short time.

Sell Me Something

Children create an advert (or commercial) for a product as a means of explaining why something is suited to its purpose. This is useful for children to understand the role of smaller parts of a larger system, for example a skeleton within an animal. Links with literacy include persuasive language and clear communication.

You're Fired!

With one child in role as 'the boss', others take on roles as different parts of a system, or different types of something. One of them must be fired; children need to talk about the functions/properties of their character in order to fight for their survival! This is useful to encourage children to think about what might happen to a whole object if part were missing, for example leaves on a flower. It can also be used to help them consider the most and least suitable materials for a given purpose.

