

Research a Researcher: Teachers' Guide

Research a Researcher is an interactive classroom session for LKS2 led by a professional scientific researcher to raise the profile of the 'Working Scientifically' skills by linking these to real-life careers and contexts. Pupils will consider and use their research skills to uncover information about the researcher's work.

Before:

- It is important that the details of your visitor's work are not revealed to the pupils. You should simply introduce the STEM Ambassador as 'a researcher', 'a scientist', or 'an exciting guest'.
- During this session, pupils will be developing ideas and questions, and taking some notes. Please review the session information and consider and prepare for those pupils that may need adult/peer support to access the learning.
- Each child will need **something to write with**. The researcher will be equipped with other resources to support their session.
- The researcher will have a **PowerPoint presentation** to share with the class. Please let them know in advance how best to share their presentation.
- Please contact the researcher with useful information they will need to know about the pupils involved, and their prior knowledge/experience with working scientifically and conducting research.
- If you can, please prepare the children with some understanding of the difference between open and closed questions.

During:

- Whilst the researcher will lead the session, the school staff are responsible for individual children's needs and classroom behaviour management.
- You may wish to note key vocabulary used in order to utilise in follow up work with the students.
- You are encouraged to support students engagement during the session and support the researcher if they need it – for example if they are asked a tricky question.
- During the session, the researcher will lead some activities requiring the children to use their research skills – based on the LKS2 'Working Scientifically' requirements. It is important to keep in mind that this session does not act as coverage of these skills but as a tool to raise the profile of and interest in them.
- The session will last around 50-60 minutes, and will include an introduction, 5 mini-activities, and a conclusion. There could be the opportunity for a further Q&A session afterwards should time allow.

After:

Some possible follow-up activities could include:

- Further discussion on and exploration of the pupils' research ideas from the session.
- Maintain communication with STEM Ambassadors to engage in future collaboration.
- Use the supplied 'Researcher Profiles' resources to further explore the topic and to address possible stereotypes.

If you have any questions about Research a Researcher or would like to share some feedback, please contact us at London-hub@stem.org.uk