

Innovating for the future

Going on a fact hunt

About this activity

Through exploration, experiments and examination, scientists gather information and facts about the world around us. From the tiniest microbes in our bodies to the massive planets in our universe, their work provides us with endlessly fascinating facts, which you might find in your favourite TV show, magazine or book.

Time

1 hour

Kit list

- ✓ Books containing science facts, you can find some brilliant examples through the Young People's Book Prize shortlist [here](#)
- ✓ Optional: access to the Internet
- ✓ Poster paper
- ✓ Arts and crafts materials

Next steps

This activity is inspired by the Royal Society Young People's Book Prize. For more information about the Prize, and how your school can get involved, go to royalsociety.org

Instructions

- 1 Just because a statement might appear as a fact, it might not be true, so checking sources such as books, articles or other scientific evidence to prove this is important.
- 2 What is the most incredible fact you know? If you can't think of one you could use one of the mind-blowing facts below (taken from *Cats React to Science Facts* by Izzi Howell):
 - ✓ Pancakes are always round because of gravity pulling down on the batter evenly, making a circular shape.
 - ✓ The peregrine falcon's streamlined shape allows it to move over 300km/h which is as fast as a Formula 1 car.
 - ✓ Pure water is an electrical insulator but tap water is an electrical conductor.
- 3 Now, consider how you might go about checking your fact and how true, or accurate, it is.
- 4 Create a poster or presentation to show your class how you checked and confirmed the fact, the sources you used and any other related facts you may have learned along the way. Also consider what experiments or investigations you might carry out to prove the fact.

At home

Think about a science topic that you find interesting and research some amazing facts about this that you can share with your friends and family.

Skills set

Curious, Communicator, Self-motivated

Career options

Many careers, both in science and not, involve gathering facts for different purposes. For example, you could be a forensic scientist who collects and analyses evidence to solve crimes, or a journalist who researches and writes articles on different topics or breaking new stories for publications, like magazines or websites.

