

reviews

Snap Science: Teaching framework year 3

Nicola Beverley, Naomi Hiscock, Liz Lawrence and James De Winter (series editor: Jane Turner)

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Complete and detailed sequences of lessons to support your children to 'Work scientifically'

Changes in the English National Curriculum provide many opportunities and challenges. There is the opportunity to widen primary science beyond the fair test and beyond the classroom (use naming plants as the excuse to get outside!). The challenge of any change is always finding the time to consider what you will keep and what you will adapt. It is here that publishers are keen to support us with a wide array of publications designed to support implementation of the new curriculum. This is one such publication.

The new Collins Snap Science programme describes itself as a 'dynamic toolkit'. This means that there are a number of parts, many of which can be adapted online to suit your class. There is a paper book called a *Teaching framework* for each year group, containing sequenced lesson plans. There is also a subscription-based online resource kit on the Collins Connect platform, which

contains the lesson plans in editable 'drag-and-drop' format, so that the activities can be selected and used in your preferred order. There is online supporting material for the lessons in the form of images, videos, animations and slideshows. Online assessment and tracking are also mentioned but at the time of writing this was still under construction, so this review can only make comment on the *Teaching framework* book.

The publisher states that the scheme is written by a team of curriculum experts, and the list of names does bode well, including advanced skills teachers (ASTs), consultants and 'big names' in primary science, all of whom started in the classroom. It is not surprising then that there are great principles stated at the start of this year 3 book: progression leading to big ideas in science; developing understanding through working scientifically; active involvement of children in their own learning; and the prominence of assessment for learning (AfL) strategies. These high aims are embedded in the lessons; for example, each has a clear enquiry focus and, in support of AfL, learning intentions are exemplified by 'I can' success criteria to support the teacher and children.

Each module begins with some background science for the teacher and common misconceptions to look out for. The lesson plans are clear, with all the usual sections for resources of vocabulary and so on. I particularly like the way every lesson is based around a question and starts with 'Explore activities', designed to catch attention, place the science in context, stimulate children's questions and provide an opportunity for the teacher to find out

what the children already know about the topic. The main 'Enquire challenge' is described in three levels of differentiated challenge and provides opportunities for practical exploration, data collection and analysis. For example, exploring leaves leads onto comparing, sorting and classifying leaves. When comparing rocks, challenge 1 gives clear instructions to test absorbency, challenge 2 asks children to time how long it takes for water to be absorbed, and challenge 3 gives children the opportunity to design and carry out their own investigation into the permeability of rocks.

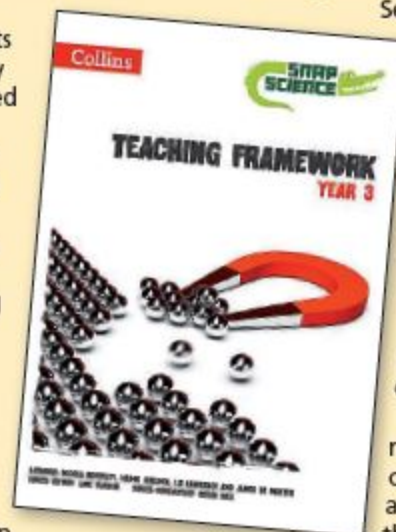
Self- and peer-assessment is highlighted in many of the plenary sections, reinforcing the principle of supporting the children to be active in their own learning. The sequences of lessons include 'core' lessons that are needed to cover all the objectives from the new English programme of study, and 'enrichment' lessons that provide extra breadth and depth.

The lessons do contain many references to the supporting online materials, so it may be a little frustrating to only have the book, although the lesson plans are complete if you are willing to spend a little time finding images and so on. The Snap Science toolkit represents a significant financial commitment; thus it is likely the decision over whether to purchase it will need to be made at a whole-school level.

While many of the activities are not new ideas (which is quite comforting too!), the clear, complete and principled way this resource is presented brings enquiry, context and children's questions to the fore so that we can be confident we are supporting children to be active in their learning.

Sarah Earle

Senior Lecturer, Bath Spa University





Snap Science School Review Crosshall Junior School

To support planning and delivering the new science curriculum, we purchased Snap Science. Each lesson starts with an opportunity to explore, before going into fun activities for the children to complete. There are three levels of differentiation planned for in each lesson and resources to support these, as well as video links. Resources are available in Word format so these can be amended to support children in relevant ways. The teachers in my school are enjoying using the Snap Science planning and delivering the lessons. The resources are well matched to the New Curriculum and each unit ensures progression. The modules within Snap Science also cover a range of enquiry types which is an essential aspect of the New Curriculum. There are assessment opportunities built in which enables teachers to track the progress of the children.

Chris Dorey, *Year 3 Teaching Team Leader*



Snap Science endorsement from Dame Alison Peacock, Headteacher of The Wroxham School and a national member of the Teaching Schools Council:

"I am delighted to endorse SNAP as an excellent, enquiry-based approach to primary science within the new curriculum. The innovative 'beyond levels' assessment tools are designed to ensure that every child accesses learning in a manner that is meaningful, engaging and challenging."

To find out more about Snap Science and how we're supporting teachers when it comes to assessment, visit our website: www.collins.co.uk/snapscience

To discuss evaluation opportunities or bespoke orders, why not have a chat with one of our reps? You can find your local representative by visiting www.collins.co.uk/findarep



I teach years 4, 5 and 6 science and use Snap Science as my main resource. I particularly like the years 4 and 6. The website is easy to use and the animations, videos and slideshows are excellent. The extended learning lessons are creative and fun to teach.

My colleagues are happy with the other years and the books look as if the children have had fun with learning. We will be using the Snap Science target sheets from next year for all year groups, they look straightforward and easy to use. We have been sent an overview which we will use as our medium term plans.

Overall we are very happy with Snap Science!

Sonia Wernberg Moller
Teacher at Kingscourt School, Hampshire