

SCIENCEOXFORD



# Bright Ideas

The Big Question- Towers  
instructions

[scienceoxford.com](http://scienceoxford.com)

# Bright Ideas instructions sheet

At Science Oxford, we're always keen to get children thinking and talking about science as we know it really helps to develop their skills and understanding.

Our evidence-based [Thinking, Talking, Doing Science](#) programme developed with Oxford Brookes University encourages teachers to have a dedicated discussion slot in every science lesson – we call it the **Bright Ideas Time**, and we've developed a range of simple prompts to get the discussion started. They're a great resource for children and families to use at home too!



# Bright Ideas activities include:

- odd one out
- The Big Question
- Positive, Minus, Interesting
- Practical Prompts for Thinking

# Opportunity to think...

Giving children opportunities to think and to share their ideas in science really helps to support their learning and develop their interests. You will get an insight into what they already know, or think they know, what they are able to notice or imagine, and how they are able to link things together. It will lead to more great questions and can provide a springboard for further research which they could undertake independently or do with you, depending on their age and ability.





The Big Question:  
Why does the Blackpool  
Tower look like this?

If you're doing the activity  
with your family, you  
could each try to choose a  
different reason in answer  
to this question.

Big Questions are questions which are open ended, with lots of possible answers, and are questions where you need time to think first.

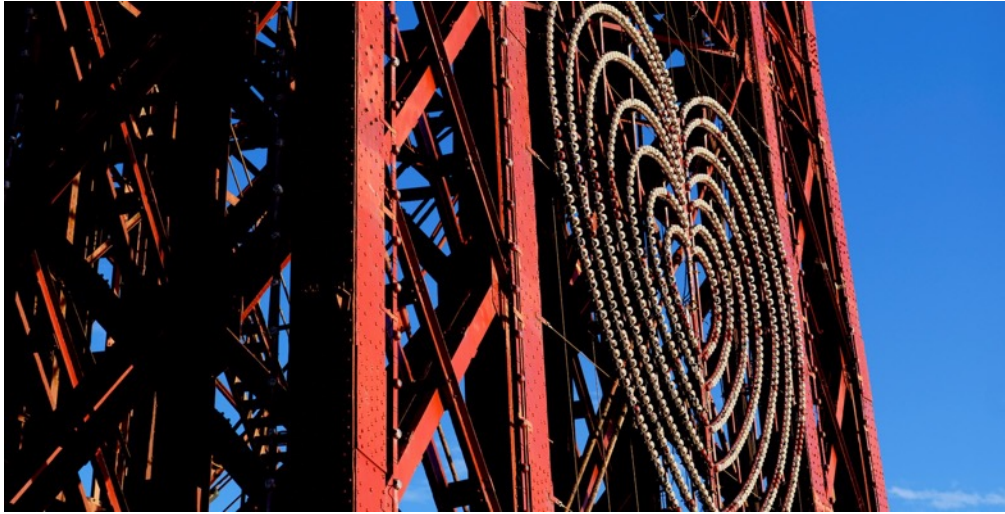


You will find that the more time you give yourselves to think about it, the more reasons you will be able to come up with and the more interesting your discussion will be.

Big Questions will require you to think about what you already know, or think you know, and apply your ideas, knowledge or observations to the context of the question.

If you're doing the activity with your family, you could each try to choose a different reason in answer to this question.





*Built in 1894, the Blackpool Tower was used as an experimental radar site during World War Two. Blackpool Tower and the Tower Circus also continued to entertain during this time, helping to boost morale and patriotism.*

For an extra challenge you might do some more research online. Big Questions are questions which often cause you to ponder the answers to other questions first. For example, 'what is the Blackpool Tower made from?' or 'what happens at the Blackpool Tower?'





# Come up with your own Big Question ...

This can be challenging to do, especially for adults – younger children can be brilliant at asking Big Questions! Here are a few examples to get you started!

- What causes day and night to occur?
- What is a flame?
- What happens to sugar when it dissolves in water?
- Why do puddles disappear?
- How do you know that something is alive?

You do not need to know the answers to Big Questions in order to ask them. The skill of asking questions that you don't know the answers to is very important in science. After pondering the answers together, ask the children if they can find out more. If you get really stuck, then you can always ask us at Science Oxford to help out!





# Share your thoughts with us...

Tell us what you came up with on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram and tag:

@scienceoxford #scienceoxfordchallenge #scienceathome

or email [competition@scienceoxford.com](mailto:competition@scienceoxford.com)

For more ideas visit [www.scienceoxford.com/resources](http://www.scienceoxford.com/resources)

If you liked doing  
The Big Question  
activity, you  
might like our  
other Bright Ideas?

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