



Bright Ideas

Imagine a world without friction

Positive, Minus, Interesting - Instruction sheet

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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...

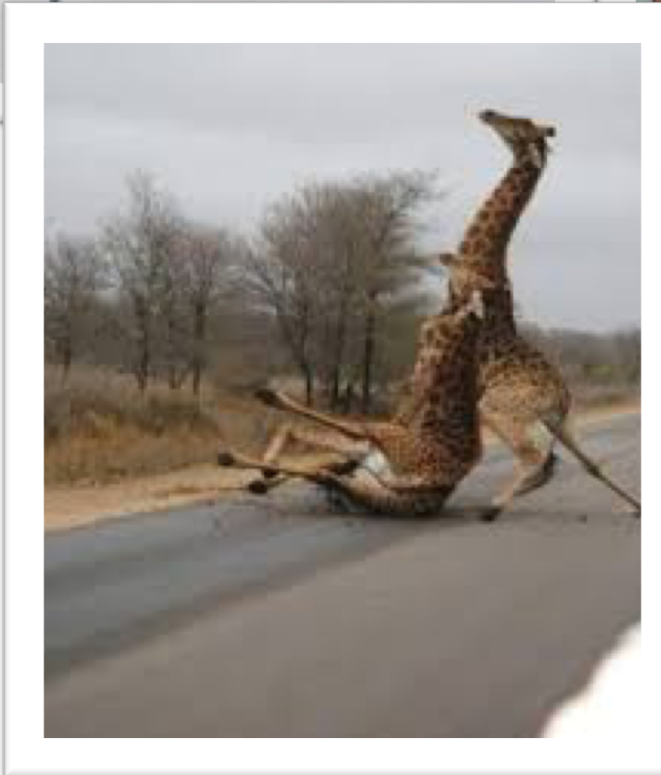
Giving children opportunities to think and to share their ideas in science really helps to support their learning and develop their interests. You will get an insight into what they already know, or think they know, what they are able to notice or imagine, and how they are able to link things together. 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. Try our Positive, Minus, Interesting activity on friction.

A world with no friction...

Positive, Minus, Interesting, or PMIs, involve considering the positives, minuses and interesting things related to a specific scenario. PMIs encourage us to look at both sides of the situation and also to be creative. PMIs are very open ended with lots of possible answers.

You will find 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 – and funny – your discussion will be. You will also find yourself asking more questions. The skill of asking questions that you don't know the answer to is very important in science.





PMI: Imagine a world without friction...

This exercise can help children realise that friction is useful, as well as being a force that hinders motion.



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Come up with your own scenario...

You can really have fun with this! Here are a few examples to get you started:

- Gravity on Earth is reduced by half
- Humans have an extra eye in the middle of their hands
- Plants can walk
- A world where water freezes at 10 degrees, not 0 degrees

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