

20 *teaching ideas for starter activities*

1

Use images. Show students a selection of images/cartoons and get them to explain which relates to last lesson's learning and how the others might tie in later. E.g. an example of a process currently being studied.

2

Guess who? Put students into pairs and hand out a wad of post-it notes to each pair. They write a word or statement relating to the lesson and put it on their partner's head. Their partner then has to guess what they are!

3

Explain statements. Put students into groups of three and number them one to three. Put three numbered statements up on to the whiteboard and ask students to explain the corresponding statement to their group.

4

Catchphrase (sort of). Have an image displayed on the board (relating to the topic of study) but covered up. Every time a student answers a question then show a little bit more of the image. The first person to identify the image, wins!

5

Play bingo! Hand out a numbered grid and read out numbered questions/statements to students. As they identify them, they tick off their bingo cards. The first student to get a full house wins.

6

Analyse objects. Bring in a selection of objects relating to what you're studying and ask the students to discuss how they think the objects are linked.

7

Question time. Ask students a series of questions. They have to answer without saying yes or no.

8

Play Blockbusters. Students complete a path of hexagons by answering questions related to the topic or area you're studying. Either use the Teachit Science interactive version (named Hexbusters) or the paper template resource which is ready to use off the peg if you search for resource 23831.

9

Match the scientist to the discovery. Give scientists' names (related to the topic) out to students along with discoveries and get them to match them up correctly. Teachit Science's Matching interactive is great if you'd prefer an interactive version.

10

Write a dictionary. Ask students to create their own 'dictionary' of key words and ask them to complete definitions of words learnt from the previous lesson.

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11

Chop up text. Chop up bits of text and get students to put it back together. It's a great tool if you're analysing newspaper headlines.

12

Play a human sequencing game. Give students a statement relating to the topic you're studying and ask them to line up in order of how strongly they agree/disagree with the statement.

13

Sit pupils back to back. One gives instructions or describes a diagram or process and the other student draws what their partner has described and identifies it correctly.

14

Sequence statements. Cut up statements and ask students to put them into the correct order. Teachit Science's Sequencing interactive is perfect if you'd rather take it down an interactive route. This works well for processes or scientific developments.

15

Word tennis. Divide the class into two groups and get them to take it in turns to say a word related to the current topic. No words can be repeated. The idea is that this is a game of word tennis and so should be scored as such.

16

Alphabetise text. Alphabetise a news story or piece of text. Ask students to analyse it by underlining important keywords, counting up different groups of words to help them suggest what the story is about.

17

Pick a question, any question! Ask students to write down any questions they have on the topic/area you're studying. Put these into a hat and pick some out. See if the students can answer them first, and then you answer if they can't!

18

Play dominoes. Use the Teachit Science template to write down questions and answers relating to the subject being studied.

19

Crack the code. Give students a code, $a=b$, $b=c$ and ask them to use the code in order to work out the objective of the lesson and any key words that are relevant.

20

Dicey questions. Make a dice with questions or statements on each of the sides. Put students into groups and ask them to take turns to roll the dice and answer the questions/discuss the statement. Teachit Science has a cube template you may find handy for this!