

Book reviews

Eurek-her! Stories of inspirational women in STEM

Frances Durkin and Nur Ventura (illustrator)
bsmall, 2024
72 pp. £14.99
ISBN 978 1 913 91894 1

A truly inspiring book about women and STEM for age 8+



From the outset, this book is an absolute delight! The play on the word 'eureka' cements the understanding that this non-fiction work centres on women in STEM.

Nur Ventura, the illustrator, does an excellent job in providing the reader with a pictorial insight into the brilliance of the women. The contents page gives a graphic timeline of the women covered and where they come from. Importantly, the author has included women from a wide-range of cultural backgrounds, and from a range of different scientific disciplines. The book provides page after page of STEM endeavour and achievement, often through times of hardship and turmoil. There is also an extensive glossary, excellent for children to hone their skills of finding out the meaning of particular words.

This is a must-have for all teachers of year 4 and above, as it helps promote the idea that women's roles within science are as important as men's, and their

achievements as significant. It also provides practical experiments to be tried at home or in the classroom, with step-by-step, easy-to-follow instructions. I will be sharing this book with my year 6 (age 10–11) class to spread the message of how important equality is in all STEM careers – and life in general.

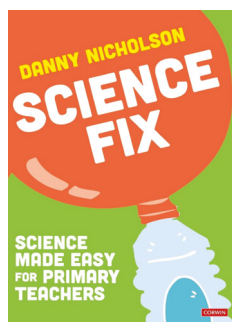
Michael Good

Y6 teacher, Stoneferry Primary School, Hull, and Primary Science reviews editor

Science fix: science made easy for primary teachers

Danny Nicholson
London: Sage (Corwin), 2024
221 pp. £22.99
ISBN 978 1 0719 2861 5

An excellent introduction to the effective teaching of primary science for trainee teachers



What a fabulous guide! The 18 chapters, divided into three parts, support teachers in understanding the principles and purpose

of primary science, and cover all aspects of the pedagogy and the national curriculum.

Chapter 1 is dedicated to explaining why we teach science, with guidance on substantive and disciplinary knowledge, models

and analogies, and the big ideas of science. The section on how to deal with misconceptions is particularly useful. Chapter 2 will probably be the most useful, as it is the disciplinary aspects of delivering the science curriculum that can be the most challenging. The description of science enquiry skills and the five types of enquiry is simple and effective. Chapter 3 draws on recent studies to give a picture of current science teaching and learning. I particularly like the 'Further reading and resources' sections at the end of each chapter. The next nine chapters (Part 2) succinctly cover the main topics of the curriculum, with handy tips, diagrams, practical lesson ideas, recommended scientists and further reading suggestions. These chapters are easy to read and provide a great bank of knowledge. Even better is the information about what not to teach, as this is often an issue in primary science. Part 3 is more of a 'how to' guide and I am impressed with the abundance of practical strategies given to support questioning and talk. The outdoor learning chapter lists opportunities for learning across science, with a handy list of equipment to support it. Finally, there are chapters on computing/ICT, inspiring future scientists and health and safety. I highly recommend this book for any staff room. It gave me some fantastic ideas!

Kathryn Jagger

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