

S is for Scientists

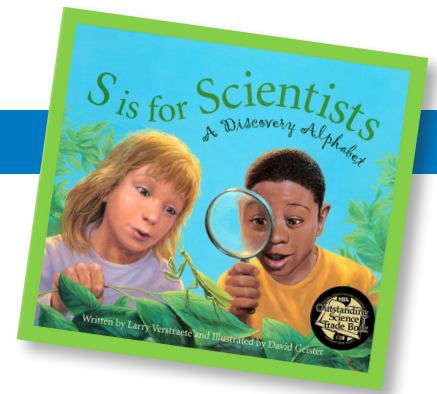
A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Investigation, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Scientific Method

Book Brief: This book introduces an alphabet of scientific discoveries that changed our lives—and the world.

Author:
Larry Verstraete

Illustrator:
David Geister



TIME TO READ!

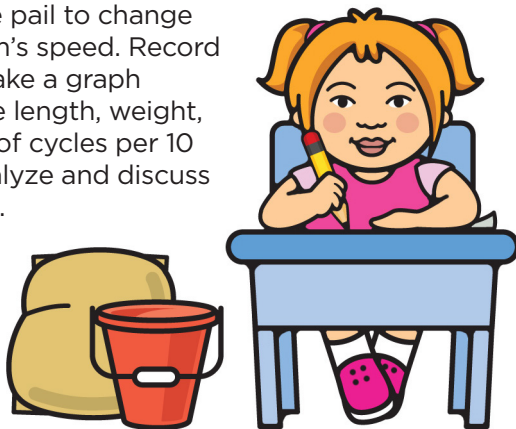
Before reading: Explain that this book profiles 26 discoveries that changed our world. Some of the scientists in this book are famous, but others are less well known. What does it mean to be famous? Does not being famous mean what you did was less important? How do scientific discoveries build on each other?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

THE SWING OF THINGS (AGES 5-12)

Materials: rope, pail or bucket with handle, sand or rocks

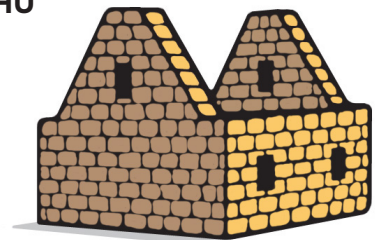
Have children tie a long rope or string to the handle of a pail. Tie the other end of the string to a tall, sturdy structure (like a tree branch) so that the pail can swing. Swing the pendulum; count how many cycles (full back and forth) it swings in 10 seconds. Change the rope length or add weight to the pail to change the pendulum's speed. Record your data. Make a graph showing rope length, weight, and number of cycles per 10 seconds. Analyze and discuss your findings.



(RE)BUILDING MACHU PICCHU (AGES 5-12)

Materials: scrap materials, tape or glue, poster board

Watch this video to see a 3D model of what Machu Picchu would have looked like in its heyday: www.youtube.com/watch?v=YI6M9LC4Pn0. Working in groups, pick a section of the city and try to build your own model of it out of scrap materials and items from around the center.



W IS FOR WARN (AGES 5-12)

Materials: paper, crayons or markers, magazines or newspapers, scissors, glue

Rachel Carson warned about the destruction of wildlife caused by humans and their actions. Make a poster or collage showing how we can take better care of our planet. Write captions to explain your pictures.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

At the Edge: Daring Acts in Desperate Times (2011)
G is for Golden Boy: A Manitoba Alphabet (2009)
Surviving the Hindenburg (2012)



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