ScienceFlix®

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Best Practices Guide

Big Picture Use Cases

- whole class
- small groups
- suggested home reading
- independent reading time

How should I use ScienceFlix in my classroom?

▶ Introduce students to ScienceFlix in a whole-class setting.

- Use a whiteboard or projector. Show students how to open a browser to find ScienceFlix or how to locate your ScienceFlix bookmark.
- On the landing page, point out how the topics are arranged by scientific discipline—Earth Science, Space Science, Life Science, and so forth. Talk about the kinds of topics that are displayed under each category and why they are organized in this manner.
- Select a topic and show how to access all its elements from the topic homepage. These include a video, a survey article, additional texts and multimedia (Dive Deeper), related readings (Explore More), projects and experiments, discussion questions, a 12-question quiz, and career information.
- Preview the video, explaining to students that it is an introduction to the topic.
- Open the survey article. Explain that this and other texts in ScienceFlix are presented at three reading levels. Show how to set/change the reading level and how to turn read-aloud on and off.
- Choose a student from the class to repeat/model the process.

Students can access ScienceFlix independently at school and at home.

▶ Use ScienceFlix with the whole class to introduce the topic.

- Show the anchor video to the class, encouraging students to take notes and jot down questions as they watch. When finished, ask students to recount the video in their own words, making sure they state the main ideas. Discuss with students what they already know about the topic. Then have students list 3-5 more things they would like to learn when they explore the topic more deeply.
- Preview the academic and content vocabulary listed in the lesson plan. Pronounce each word and discuss its definition. Have students take turns pronouncing each of the words and restating their definitions.
- Introduce the What Do You Think questions and the Essential Question for the topic. Ask students to think about them as they explore the ScienceFlix materials. Revisit the questions as a class after explorations are completed.

Students build background knowledge and key vocabulary around a topic.

▶ Use ScienceFlix to explore a topic and collaborate in small groups.

- Assign students the survey article to read as a class or independently.
- Divide students into small groups to explore one of the three Dive Deeper topics. Have them read the text at their appropriate reading level and view the media resources. Have each group discuss and prepare a brief review or other deliverable to present to the class.
- Regroup as a class to share learning.

Students deepen their understanding of a science topic through exploration of a variety of media and text types.

▶ Use ScienceFlix to promote hands-on scientific learning.

- Show an experiment video to the class, then have students conduct their own experiment independently or in pairs.
- Encourage students to pursue the Maker Space activity ideas that accompany selected Science News stories.
- Assign one of the Science Lab projects for the topic that the class is exploring. Ask students to work individually or collaboratively on the project. Allow time in class for students to present their work or share their findings.

Students gain a better understanding of science concepts by engaging in hands-on learning.

▶ Use ScienceFlix in a flipped classroom.

- Have students read some or all texts in a ScienceFlix unit and explore its related materials at home.
- Use class time to facilitate discussions and engage students in activities related to the topic they have explored independently.

Students learn at their own pace, then confirm understanding though collaborative, teacher-supported classroom activities.

▶ Use ScienceFlix as a resource for Genius Hour/ 20% Time.

- Encourage students to choose a topic or related resource from ScienceFlix that excites their interest. For inspiration, point them to the Science Lab projects and experiments, Careers, the Science News module, and other elements that encourage inquiry and hands-on learning.
- Have them craft an inquiry question to define and communicate their project. Use the ScienceFlix Essential Questions as models for strong open-ended questions.
- Have students use the resources in ScienceFlix as a springboard to research, create, and present their project.

Students have opportunities to pursue their interests, exercise creativity and critical thinking, and direct their own learning.

▶ Use ScienceFlix units that correlate to the unit you are teaching and to make cross-curricular connections.

- Use ScienceFlix content to supplement your science curriculum or to introduce a new science unit.
- Use the Science News module to connect science to our world.
- Use the Explore More content to encourage related reading across a range of text complexity.

Students improve literacy skills and build STEM content knowledge.

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Quick Access Tip

Bookmark ScienceFlix on your school computers or mobile devices.
https://www.infohio.org/resources/item/scienceflix

Create and print a QR code for ScienceFlix and post it in your classroom so that students with mobile devices have easy access.

How are other teachers using ScienceFlix?

"Seeing the jobs and salaries associated with a field helps give my students a purpose for learning."

- Use the Show What You Know quiz that accompanies each unit to gauge student comprehension.
- Use the What Do You Think questions as discussion starters or writing prompts.
- Have students refer to the Careers section to find real-world applications of the topic they are studying.

"Seeing the jobs and salaries associated with a field helps give my students a purpose for learning."

- Refer to each unit's lesson plan for specific classroom activities and other tips.

"The lesson plans are modular and easy to connect to my curriculum."

How can my students use ScienceFlix at home?

Download the ScienceFlix Parent Letter explaining the benefits of ScienceFlix and how to access it from home. Letters are located in the Training & Support section of the ScienceFlix information page.

Copy the letter and send it home with students or distribute it at open houses or parent-teacher conferences.

Customize the letter by adding your school's username and password and your name.

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