



GROSSOLOGY / QUEEN FOR A DAY: TEACHER'S NOTES

GENERAL THEME

The Grossology worksheets are a series of activities for young children. The activities are cross-curricular with an emphasis on science, literacy, maths, ICT and art.

Children will learn through the medium of cartoon, the intention of which is to maximise teachers' opportunities for in-class discussion.

The series of activities includes a drawing exercise, a sequencing exercise, a writing exercise and also an exercise where the children will focus on a character in the Grossology episode.

They have been designed not only to encourage children to examine and consider the Grossology characters, but also to work individually, in groups, as a whole class and with adult support at home.

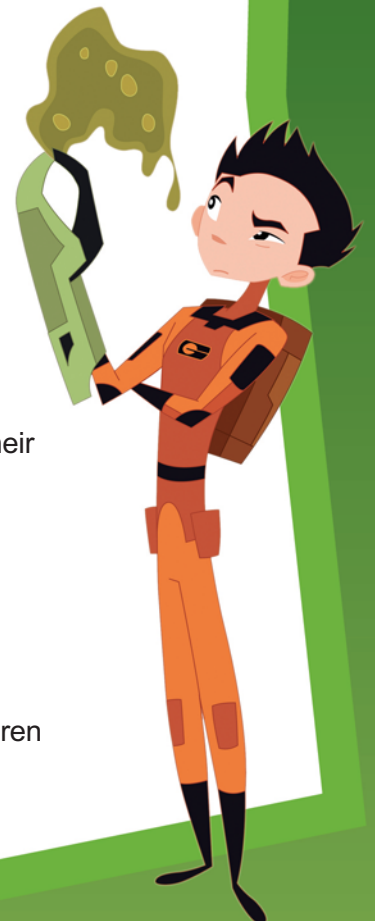
Children will have the opportunity to look carefully at the features of real insects and make careful close-observation drawings.

The materials provided will enable them to make dictionaries and complete a spelling activity. They will also be encouraged to extend their description skills and use of vocabulary.

Sorting creatures according to their key characteristics will encourage children to use Venn diagrams effectively.

Sequencing events will also encourage children to look carefully at and recreate images.

Using the Grossology episode as a tool for learning will motivate children and encourage them to have fun whilst improving upon their skills across the curriculum.





GROSSOLOGY CURRICULUM OBJECTIVES MET

LITERACY

- Speaking and listening; use of language and style; using and extending vocabulary.
- Developing creative writing skills; imagining and exploring feelings and ideas, focusing on creative uses and how to interest the reader.
- Reviewing and commenting on what has been read, seen or heard.
- Exploring a range of forms of writing.
- Using and understanding alphabetical order/dictionaries.
- Using reference materials for different purposes.
- Sequencing events and recounting them in appropriate detail.

MATHS 5

- Solving a problem by using simple lists, tables and charts to sort, classify and organise information.
- Discussing what they have done and explaining their results.
- Sequencing information.

SCIENCE 4

- Variation and classification: identifying locally occurring animals and plants and assigning them to groups. (The variety of plants and animals makes it important to identify and assign them to groups.)

ICT 1

- Gathering information from a variety of sources.
- Using the internet to explore ideas and find out information.

ART 1a

- Recording from first-hand observation, experience and imagination, and exploring ideas.

ART 1b

- Asking and answering questions about the starting points for their work and developing their ideas.





DRAWING EXERCISE

EXERCISE 1

(Get Drawing with Grossology)

Children should be encouraged to talk about how to draw the Termite Queen and the real termite before they begin the sketching activity.

This is an ideal opportunity for children to sketch from real-life objects or pictures and improve their drawing skills.

Children should draw a detailed picture of the real termite as shown on the sheet.

If possible, they could then find other mini beasts in the garden to draw. This is also an ideal chance to go and explore the school grounds looking for mini beasts; it would link well with any work on habitats.

They should be careful not to harm the insects!

EXERCISE 2

(Get Drawing with Grossology 2)

Children should be encouraged to observe the different termites that they have seen in the episode.

They should try to find mini beasts beginning with the letters A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H, using the internet or mini-beast books or dictionaries to aid their research.

Using the information they gather, the children can then work towards creating their own mini-beast dictionary. This would be a good opportunity for children to work in pairs. It could even be set as challenge between pairs or groups of children.





SEQUENCE EXERCISE

EXERCISE 1

(Sort the Sequence with Grossology)

Sequencing scenes from Queen for a Day, looking at how the school hall is decorated.

This is a good opportunity for some higher-level questioning to stretch the most able children. Children should be encouraged to look at and explore the different pictures before they decide which order they go in.

Encourage them to have an opinion about what is in each picture: What do you think might be happening? How do the characters feel at the end of the story? Why?

Correct sequence (C,B,A,D)

EXERCISE 2

(Insect Investigations with Grossology)

Model how to use a Venn diagram as a whole class before the children complete the activity. Discuss what each section means and also discuss what it would mean if something were placed outside the diagram.

Children should complete the Venn diagram using the insects provided.

Venn diagrams are a way of sorting according to type. All the insects with wings will go in one circle and all the insects with six legs will go in the other. Insects with both attributes will go in the overlapping segment. Any insects that don't fit those criteria can go around the outside. Encourage the children to add more insects if they can think of them. This activity could be extended by sorting other insects.





WRITING EXERCISE

EXERCISE 1

(Grossology Word Detectives)

Children to complete the word search.

This is a good activity for paired discussion. Encourage the children to work together to solve the word search.

Extension: Children could create their own list of words and hide them in another word search!

EXERCISE 2

(Grossology Word Detectives)

Children will use all the words from the word search to write an account of how the Grossologists saved the day. The children will be able to retell the story or create their own story using the Grossologist characters. This is a good opportunity to use extended literacy skills to describe the characters using adjectives and adverbs. Some children might even like to write this as a letter to another character.





DRAW/WRITE ABOUT A CHARACTER IN THE EPISODE

EXERCISE 1

(Get Drawing with Grossology 3/Get Writing with Grossology)

This is another excellent opportunity for discussion. Encourage the children to think and talk about who their favourite characters are. This can be done either at home or in school. Again, encourage the children to have an opinion about a character and give reasons for this.

This exercise creates opportunities to write for different purposes, so children are encouraged to write about a favourite character giving clear reasons for their decisions and actions.

EXERCISE 2

(Grossology Technology)

This activity is an extension from the previous task, giving the children the chance to practise their drawing skills by creating their own disguise for the Grossologists. Encourage the children to be creative and make their characters as interesting as possible. This is another good opportunity for discussion.



GROSSOLOGY



G	R	O	S	S	O	L	O	G	I	S	T
T	E	G	H	J	V	I	L	L	A	I	N
R	O	U	D	C	M	K	D	A	S	D	F
M	W	A	G	O	B	U	G	Y	J	O	Q
I	W	R	U	L	I	B	R	A	R	Y	U
T	L	M	C	O	M	R	A	N	T	D	E
E	D	Y	D	N	D	P	F	I	R	U	N
O	C	X	E	Y	O	C	O	N	L	I	P
D	P	A	N	D	C	Q	D	O	L	J	D
U	N	D	E	R	G	R	O	U	N	D	S
E	O	C	M	D	A	I	E	S	I	D	E
U	D	E	Y	X	D	E	M	E	A	E	H
Q	F	R	I	E	N	D	N	I	O	Y	D

GROSSOLOGY WORD DETECTIVES

ANSWERS