

Y5/6 – Assembly Plan 2

The Power of Science to Change the World

How can science solve the world's biggest problems?

Preparation:

- Prepare impactful examples of scientific discoveries, such as vaccines, renewable energy, and water purification technologies.
- Find and print images showing global challenges like pollution, climate change, and deforestation.
- Show a brief video clip of an inspiring young scientist (e.g., Greta Thunberg, Boyan Slat).
- Choose a thought-provoking song such as "Imagine" by John Lennon or a modern science-themed song for the children's arrival.

1	Welcome and Introduction (3 minutes): • Begin by showing a powerful image of a polluted ocean or a deforested area. Ask the children, "What do you see? How does this make you feel?" • Introduce the big question: "How can science solve the world's biggest problems?"
2	Example 1 – Renewable Energy (5 minutes): • Show an image of wind turbines or solar panels. Explain how scientists have developed new technologies to create clean energy from the sun and wind, reducing pollution and fighting climate change. • Ask the children, "How do you think using less energy could help the planet?" Let a few children respond.
3	Example 2 – Vaccines and Health (5 minutes): • Talk briefly about how vaccines have saved millions of lives by preventing diseases. Use an image of a scientist in a lab working on a vaccine. • Explain that through science, diseases like polio and smallpox have been nearly eradicated, and new vaccines are being developed all the time to protect people. • Ask the children, "What other problems could scientists solve to make the world a healthier place?"
4	Example 3 – Cleaning the Oceans (5 minutes): • Show an image of ocean pollution and a solution like Boyan Slat's ocean cleanup project. Explain how young scientists are using technology to remove plastic from the oceans and keep our water clean. • Ask the children what they think we could do to help keep the oceans clean. Talk about recycling and reducing plastic use as part of the solution.

5	Interactive Moment – Future Scientists (6 minutes): • Pose the question, "If you could be a scientist, what problem would you want to solve?" • Let several children share their ideas and encourage others to think about how they could use science to make the world better. • Highlight that many scientists started as curious children who loved to ask questions and solve problems.
6	Inspiring Young Scientist Video (4 minutes): • Show a brief video of an inspiring young scientist like Greta Thunberg (for climate change) or Boyan Slat (for ocean cleanup). Let the children see that even young people can make a huge difference in the world.
7	Conclusion (3 minutes): • Recap the examples: renewable energy, vaccines, and ocean cleanup. Emphasise that science is not just for adults—children can think like scientists and come up with ideas to solve problems. • Tell them that the next time they see a problem in the world, they should think about how science could help solve it.

Reflection

Ask the children to reflect on how they can help the world using science. "What problem could you help solve one day? How can you start learning more about science now?"

Music

Play "Imagine" by John Lennon or another reflective song as children leave the assembly, encouraging them to think about their role in making the world a better place.

Cross-Curricular Links:

- **Science:** Impact of technology and science on society (Year 6)
- **Geography:** Environmental issues and sustainability
- **Citizenship:** Global citizenship and responsibility