

UKS2 – Lesson Plan 2 - History

How have scientific discoveries changed the way we live today?

Aim: To explore how key scientific inventions and discoveries from the past have shaped the modern world.	Key Words: discovery, invention, electricity, gravity, microscope, vaccine, change, impact, timeline, historical	Preparation: - Timeline of key scientific discoveries (printable or digital) - Fact cards featuring scientists/inventors (e.g. Isaac Newton, Marie Curie, Alexander Fleming, Thomas Edison, Rosalind Franklin) - Images of historical inventions (early lightbulb, microscope, x-ray machine) - Worksheet for note-taking and comparison - Access to books, videos, or tablets for brief research
---	--	---

Prior Learning: Children understand what a ‘discovery’ or ‘invention’ is and have some experience identifying cause and effect in history or science.

WC / PT	<u>Warm-up:</u> Present a mystery item from history (e.g. early telephone or x-ray image). Ask: - What do you think this is? - How might it have changed people’s lives? Use this to introduce the concept that science and history are linked: <i>scientific breakthroughs create change across time.</i>	0-5 mins
WC	<u>Main Teach:</u> Explore how discoveries in science have made life safer, healthier, and easier. Introduce several historical figures and inventions, such as: Isaac Newton – gravity and motion Marie Curie – radiation and medicine Alexander Fleming – discovery of penicillin Thomas Edison – electric light Rosalind Franklin – DNA structure Discuss: - What problem did the discovery solve? - How did it affect people at the time? - How do we still benefit from it today?	5-10 mins

I / S	<u>Activity:</u> Create a 'Scientific Change Timeline' Children work in pairs or small groups to: 1. Choose 3–5 scientific discoveries 2. Research the inventor and the impact 3. Create a visual timeline showing: ○ The invention/discovery ○ The date ○ Who made it ○ Its historical impact Include pictures, facts, and a short explanation of how each discovery changed people's lives.	10-30 mins
I	<u>Extension Challenge:</u> Children imagine they are historians of the future and write an entry called: <i>"The Invention That Changed the World in 2024"</i> E.g. a new medical treatment, AI discovery, or climate breakthrough.	30-35 mins
WC	<u>Plenary:</u> Reflection discussion: • Which scientific discovery do you think changed the world the most? • Could it have been invented earlier or later? • Why is it important to learn about science in the past? Quote to share: <i>"Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity." – Louis Pasteur</i>	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	Write a biography or diary entry from the point of view of a famous scientist.
Challenge B	Create a museum-style poster or drawing of an invention, labelled and explained.