

## Big Books

### Who is it for ?

EYFS, Key Stage 1, Lower and Upper Key Stage 2

In EYFS - one class book for the year

In Key Stage 1 – a class book per topic

In Key Stage 2 – one class book for the year

### What is it ?

A Big Book is a very large book, usually made out sugar paper by the teacher. This has blank pages, which the teacher or the children draw, write or stick things onto. It can be used throughout the lesson during the starter, main teaching session or in the plenary.

### Why use it ?

A Big Book is a working document which is used to collate Science work being carried out by the **whole** class. The science recording, that the children do together as a class, can be documented in the Big Book. It allows the teacher to correct any misconceptions that the children may have, whilst the working is going on, rather than having to wait till the work is marked. It is also a valuable ongoing assessment tool, allowing the teacher to be aware of where the children are, as they are being taught. It also allows children to share other children's work and develop their own learning as it is occurring. Children often enjoy looking at the Big Book between lessons, which encourages their learning around a topic to develop outside the lesson through peer discussion.

### How to use it?

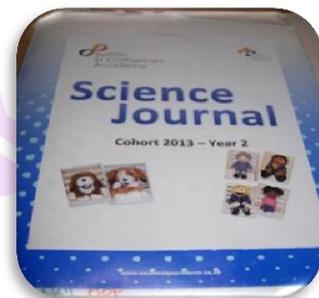
The Big Book is used when the teacher is working with the whole class. It can be used in a variety of ways ; to remind the children what they were investigating in a previous lesson, it can contain a class concept map with their thoughts on a new topic, or the children can have done a class activity and bring their findings together in the Big Book.

### Lesson Idea

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Photo 1: Example of a Big Book



The children have been on a light source walk around the school and its grounds with the teacher and have been asked to spot different light sources. On return to the classroom they are given two small squares of paper and asked to draw something they saw that was a light source and something that wasn't and author their pictures. They are then invited to bring their pictures to the carpet. The Big Book page has been divided up into Light source / Not a light source . The teacher asks the less able children to come up and stick their pictures into the correct column.

Any mistakes are left until the end, when the teacher can ask if anyone would now like to change their position on the page. The more able children are asked to order a few of the pictures from the brightest light source to the dimmest. At this point the teacher can also deal with any issues that may have come up regarding reflective materials and discuss which side of the page they should be on and why.

By using the Big Book in this way, the teacher has been able to see straight away who has found the activity difficult and by allowing them to see other children's work they have been able to change the position of their picture and continue to learn from each other. The teacher is able to stretch the more able by extending their knowledge of a variety of more challenging light sources. If the children had come back into class and written in their own individual books no more learning would have occurred – only a record of what they had found out outside. When a teacher uses a Big Book there is always lots of speaking and listening and developing of scientific vocabulary which doesn't occur when children work in their own books. Also the teacher doesn't have a lot of books to mark!

### **Other Ideas to put in the Big Book**

- A class planner with predictions around the outside with the children's ideas of what might happen.
- Pictograms, tables, graphs, Carroll, Venn diagrams
- Class concept maps
- Photos and comments taken during investigations
- Science vocabulary with children's alternatives

### **Key concepts**

**Time taken** – depends on which session used in 5 mins to 20 mins

**Equipment needed** – large sugar paper, stiff card for the cover and staples

**Teacher's assessment** - occurs during the recording in the book

**Curricular Links** – Numeracy, English – publishing a non-fiction book, Computing