

More Examples of the Bright Ideas Time: PMI

Again in this activity there are no correct answers. The PMI involves considering the positives, minuses and interesting points related to a specific scenario. It was originally developed by de Bono. It encourages the pupils to look at both sides of a situation and also to be creative when considering the interesting possibilities. The examples below give ideas and some possible answers but what emerges depends on the pupils!

PMI		
National Curriculum	Prompt	Subject knowledge/ideas
Sc2: Life processes & living things	A skeleton made of a flexible material	KS1/2: This is great fun. They can think about folding themselves into a drawer, never being able to break a bone etc. The discussion can then lead to the very special properties of bone and how it protects our inner organs, as well as providing the rigidity we need to walk etc
	Plants can walk	KS2: It is interesting to realise that plants do not need to move because they make their own food by photosynthesis – animals have to move in order to forage for food. P: the plant could move where there is more light or water M: the plant would waste energy by moving I: Garden make-over programmes would go out of business because the plants would move after planting!
	Only humans are left in the world.	KS2: Interdependence P: No more mosquito bites M: No plants because no pollination, so no food I: Industries to develop alternative methods of pollination

Sc3: Materials and their properties	An umbrella made of glass	KS1/2: Each of these scenarios link to the fitness of materials for purpose and will require the pupils to draw on their understanding of the properties of the materials in question.
	A house made of steel	
	Windows made of wood	
	The freezing point of water becomes 10 ⁰ C	KS2: Water is an amazing substance. If it froze at a higher temperature, icy weather would be more frequent. What would it feel like? P: Better for ice skating M: Too much ice on the tracks most of the time for the trains to run! I: Permanent ice sculptures in the winter
	The ice caps melt	KS2: Pertinent, possible and sad!
Sc4: Physical processes	A world without electricity	KS1: This could be the focus for a cross-curricular link to history
	A world with no friction	KS2: This helps the pupils to realise that friction is useful, as well as hindering motion. P: We would all become expert skaters! M: Cars would not be able to start or stop! I: We would need to design something that would stop our tea sliding off the plate every time we tried to eat it.
	Gravity is reduced by a half	KS2 P: We could jump much higher M: Our muscles would lose their tone – rather like the astronauts experience when they return to Earth I: We would have to redesign our sports pitches – the players could bound down the field far more easily
	The Earth stops spinning	One side of the Earth would have permanent daylight, the other permanent darkness. Gravity would not change though – many people think it is caused by the spin of the Earth but not so!