

Science fiction versus science fact

Your assembly is going to:

- Use science fiction to get your audience thinking about how science affects their everyday lives.
- Ask the audience whether they think science is something they need to know about.
- Be entertaining!

To help you begin planning your assembly, read these three statements:

- Science fiction stories try to predict what the future will be like if science develops a bit further.
- New discoveries in science can change our everyday lives for example, nuclear power, televisions.
- Some scientific discoveries do not become part of society.

What questions do those statements make you think about?

- Which science fiction ideas did people predict in the past?
- Which of these have become reality and which have not?
- Why do some science fiction predictions become reality but others do not, even when we have the science to make them happen?
- What predictions do you have for the future?

You can add your own questions to the list. It is the plan for your assembly.

Next:

- Look at the *Assembly* speech. Decide which sections you want to use to help answer each of the questions. Do some of your own research. Perhaps you could ask older members of your family which scientific discoveries have changed their lives the most since they were your age, and the areas of daily life that have changed the least in their lifetime?
- If you do not like any of the *Assembly* sections, change them for your own. You do not have to use all of them. There are lots of different examples of science fiction and new discoveries that you could use instead.
- Decide how each section is going to link together. Do you want to use some images from science fiction films or TV shows, past or present, or maybe a short film clip?

Finally, check that your assembly does what you set out to do!

AKA Science Assembly References

General

<http://www.sfsite.com/depts/fact01.htm>

Science fiction website with links to science fact, a resource intended as a research tool for science fiction writers.

<http://www.eurekaalert.org>

Details of hundreds of latest scientific discoveries.

Discovery

<http://www.school.discovery.com/lessonplans/programs/1984/>

Cross-curricular lesson plan. Pupils consider the emergence of technology surveillance since the publication of George Orwell's *1984*, providing an opportunity for the discussion on citizenship and development of literacy skills.

Space Exploration

NASA

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/>

Full up to the minute details of the International Space Station, including a virtual tour with robot guide MC.

http://nasaexplores.com/lessons/01-036/9-12_1-t.html

http://nasaexplores.com/lessons/01-036/9-12_article.pdf

Lesson ideas from NASA using science fiction versus science fact to develop literacy skills.

<http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/WWW/PAO/warp.htm>

When will we have warp drive?!?

Michigan State University College of Education

<http://commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/letsnet/noframes/subjects/science/64u9.html>

Pupils compare and research science fiction and fact, then produce their own stories about imaginary planets. For the US curriculum, but useful website references.

Are we really running out of oil?

American Petroleum Institute

<http://api-ec.api.org/newsplashpage/index.cfm>

Follow *About Oil and Natural Gas* to the *Frequently Asked Questions* section, or go straight to:

<http://www.api.org/oilsup.htm>

for *Are we really running out of oil?*

BP

<http://www.bp.com/centres/energy2002/oil.reserves.asp>

Oil reserves, production and consumption estimates worldwide.

[Currently estimating reserves of 1,050 thousand million barrels, with daily usage at 75,291 thousand barrels.]

The Guardian

<http://image.guardian.co.uk/sys-files/Guardian/documents/2001/08/14/resources-biodiversity.pdf>

Report on resource sustainability (high reading level).

The Conservation Foundation

<http://www.conservationfoundation.co.uk/nrg/nrg4.htm>

The Conservation Foundation aims to encourage environmental collaboration between public, private and non-profit sectors. Report from a meeting on resource sustainability.

British Biogen

<http://www.britishbiogen.co.uk/bioenergy/21stcenturyfuel/bionrgnrgmkt.html>

British Biogen is a trade association for the UK Bioenergy Industry, which aims to promote the development of biomass as a renewable fuel. Report on fossil fuel usage worldwide.

Other ASE CD ROMs

http://www.sycd.co.uk/who_am_i/excite/assemblies.htm

Can we; should we?: Assembly speech, *Cloning – what does it have to do with us?*

http://www.sycd.co.uk/is_there_life/everywhere/cross_curricular.htm

Is there life?: Cross-curricular space race game, *History Meets Science.*