

Science Starter Dominoes

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Science Starter Dominoes: Teaching Guide

Your science starter dominoes are supplied on disc in Publisher format. This is so that you can adapt them to your own teaching needs by editing out any dominoes that go beyond the range of your pupils, or by adding in extra dominoes.

One set of dominoes is provided ready-cut. All domino sheets should be printed off, cut down the middle, and then cut further into strips.

How to Use the Dominoes:

1. As a Starter or Plenary Activity.

One of the most common criticisms of Starter and Plenary sessions in lessons is that they do not fully take on board the agenda of Assessment for Learning/Assessment of Learning. This is because plenaries in particular only check the learning of a few of the pupils. The technique described here is intended to tackle this problem.

- You will need to adjust the template to fit the learning needs of your class. Then cut up a copy and hand the dominoes out among the class—you can always put some of the more able pupils under greater pressure by giving them more than one pair. You also find at least a couple of simpler dominies in each set. Print off another sheet but do not cut it up—you will be using this as an assessment record.
- Explain to the pupils that it is a “knowledge race”. If you have more than one class, you can tell them they have to beat the time of the other class. You set a “time target” for the completion of the dominoes set—this is what they, as a class, must achieve.
- Then nominate one pupil to start. They read out the right hand side domino—the question part. Whoever has the answer must respond as quickly as possible, and so on around the class until the person who started gives the final answer.
- While the dominoes are progressing, the teacher keeps track using a copy of the set. Each time a pupil hesitates or gets a wrong answer, make a note on the appropriate place on the sheet. This will provide you with a record so that you can adjust your planning to match identified weaknesses.
- The dominoes can be used several times over. Set them at the start of the lesson and again at the end to see if the target can be beaten.
- Create added excitement by taking part yourself. If you have a TA/LSA in the room, get them to keep the record for you. Set up a large clock at the front of the room (using ICT if you have it) so they can feel the pressure.

2. As a group exercise.

- To do this you should divide the class into groups. About six people is ideal. At a given signal, the dominoes must be arranged into the correct order by the group. The advantage of this system is that you can organise groups according to your own purposes, but it will give you less information about what pupils do or do not know because you will not be able to track the “hesitations”.

3. As an individual exercise

- Pupils can have a set of dominoes cut up to stick into their books. However, this means a lot of cutting unless you use the electronic version to unmatch questions and answers.

....a jelly-like substance.	Similar cells working together.....	...form a tissue.	An organ is made of.....
...different tissues working together.	All cells except red blood have.....	...a nucleus.	Mitosis is the.....
...process where cells multiply.	The cell membrane....	.....holds the cell together.	Sperms and eggs are....
.....produced by meiosis.	Cells like sperms and eggs....	...have only half the information found in body cells	Chlorophyll is found....
...in plant cells only.	Chlorophyll , a green substance, is important....	...for photosynthesis.	The human body has....
....over 100 billion tiny cells.	Red blood cells.....	...transport oxygen round the body.	The ovum is...
...the female sex cell.	Vacuoles are...	...fluid-filled sacs.	An amoeba is...
...a single cell organism.	A cell wall is made of .....	...cellulose.	Plant cells trap energy...

....from the sun.	The nucleus contains...	...genetic information.	The working of a cell is controlled...
... from the nucleus.	Vacuoles are...	...sacs filled with fluid.	Male sex cells are.....
...called sperm.	Nerve cells...	...pass messages round the body.	Male sex cells can....
...move but female ones cannot.	Sperm cells have....	...a tail to help them move.	A cell membrane is found....
...on the outside of the cell.	Chlorophyll is ....	....green.	In an ovum, the cytoplasm....
...provides food for a growing organism.	The word “cellular” is commonly used....	...to describe anything made from cells	Cells are often used to.....
....keep criminals in!	Chlorophyll absorbs.....	....sunlight.	Cellulose cannot be.....
...digested by humans.	The liquid filling vacuoles.....	....is sometimes called cell sap.	Cytoplasm is..