

EXPLORE SCIENCE

7A01

Learning Intention 1 - Describe the structure of the Explore Science course

HOW DOES EXPLORE SCIENCE WORK?

Explore Science is designed to be a complete junior high school Science program for Years 7 to 10. The program has four Year courses that last for the whole school year (forty school weeks) and require about two and a half hours per week. The program totally complies with the Australian Curriculum and includes theory and practical components as well as research tasks, all designed with home schoolers in mind.

Scope and Sequence

	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3		Term 4	
Year 7	7A Starting Science	7B Mixtures and Separations	7C Classification	7D Natural Resources and Cycles	7E Forces	7F Interactions of Organisms	7G The Solar System	7H Simple Machines
Year 8	8A States of Matter	8B Cells	8C Rocks and Minerals	8D Multicellular Organisms	8E The Particle Model	8F Energy	8G Reproduction	8H Chemical Reactions I
Year 9	9A Body Systems	9B Atomic Theory and Radioactivity	9C Plate Tectonics	9D Chemical Reactions II	9E Waves	9F Ecosystems	9G Electricity	9H Independent Research Project (IRP)
Year 10	10A Energy Conservation	10B The Periodic Table	10C Genetics	10D Chemical Reactions III	10E The Universe and the Big Bang	10F Motion	10G Evolution	10H Global Systems

A year's course consists of eight units, each lasting five weeks or half a school term. The units are broken down into ten lessons (two per week), and each lesson has different types of content including videos, printable sheets and tasks.

	Term 1		
Year 7	7A Starting Science	7B Mixtures and Separations	7C Classification
Year 8	8A States of Matter	8B Cells	8C Rocks and Minerals

Course

Units

Each unit is identified by a code and a title, such as 7A Starting Science. This means; Year 7 unit A, with the title Starting Science.

Unit

Lessons

The unit is broken down into ten lessons, two each week for five weeks. They have the code like "7A03 What is Science?". Both lessons and all their associated work should be able to be completed in two and a half hours per week.

7A	STARTING SCIENCE
7A01	How does Explore Science work?
7A02	Navigating the website
7A03	What is Science?
7A04	The Scientific Method
7A05	Scientific Investigations
7A06	What are Variables?
7A07	Measurement
7A08	Results and Investigations
7A09	Conclusions
7A10	Science and Technology

Each unit has an overview of the unit that can be used as a checklist about your progress. It is called Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. A Learning Intention describes what you should know at the end of the lesson, and the Success Criteria are three statements that show you can achieve the Learning Intention. At the top of the Learning Intention and Success Criteria sheet you will also find some other codes showing how the unit is aligned with the Australian Curriculum.

EXPLORE SCIENCE		7A STARTING SCIENCE	Year 7 Science
This unit addresses the following Australian Curriculum content descriptions: ACSIS124, ACSIS126, ACSIS129, ACSIS131, ACSHE119, ACSHE121, ACSHE223			
LEARNING INTENTIONS AND SUCCESS CRITERIA			DATE COMPLETED
LI 1	Students will describe the structure of the Explore Science course		
SC1	I can outline the structure as Yearly Course → Unit (eight per course) → Lesson (ten per Unit) → Content (videos, documents and tasks)		
SC2	I can identify each lesson by its course code		
SC3	I can explain what Learning Intentions and Success Criteria are about		

There are two lessons each week. There are five parts to each lesson.

1. Each lesson begins with a ten to fifteen minute video and a printable Lesson Content page that summarises the lesson.
2. After the video there is a written quiz covering the work from the video that should take about ten minutes. You can look at the Lesson Content sheet or go back over the video if you need help to answer the questions.
3. When you have finished the worksheet there is a Review video that will go back over the Worksheet and a quick summary of the lesson including the Learning Intentions and Success Criteria. Altogether this should take about 30 minutes per lesson.
4. At the end of each lesson there will also be an online quiz. You will need to pass the quiz before you can go on to the next lesson, but you can take the quiz as many times as you like and can look at the video or worksheets to help answer the questions.
5. Finally, there will be additional work; either a research task or a practical task which should take 30 to 60 minutes each. The practical work will not require special chemicals or equipment and should be able to be done at home with easily obtainable materials. However, if you wish to dig deeper into science practical work there is a list of (optional) resources you could purchase in the Resources link from the Explore Science home page.

The Explore Science course can be undertaken anywhere, anytime. You can schedule the two lessons morning, afternoon or evening to suit each week, either on separate days or both lessons on one day. Although the course is designed to fit four ten week school terms, you can skip a week or two if something important comes up, although you will need to catch up before you fall too far behind. One of the beauties of homeschooling is its flexibility and since Explore Science is totally online, you can complete the course in your own time. You could even do it on an extended holiday (aka home school excursion) around Australia or even overseas, as long as you have an internet connection, or you could complete the course early so you can enjoy your break!

