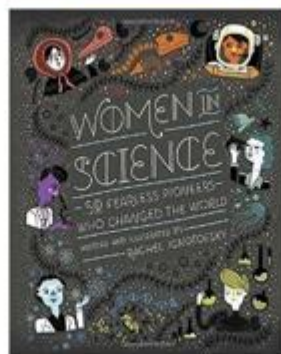
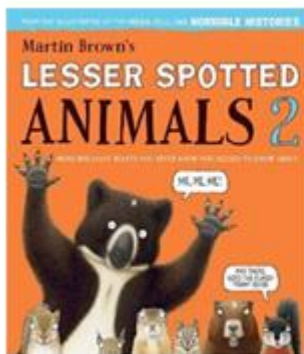
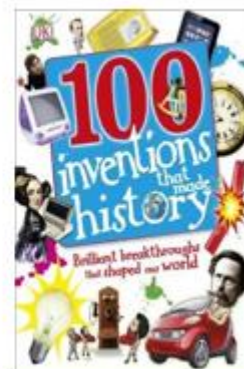
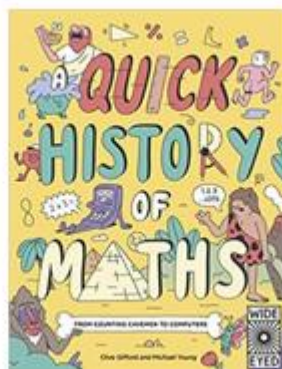
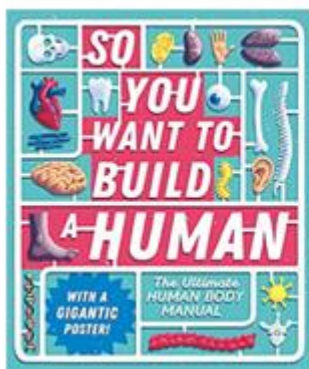




*Wonderful non-fiction*

## Chatterbooks activity pack



Reading and activity ideas for your Chatterbooks group

## Tricks and jokes

### About this pack

In this Chatterbooks activity pack you'll find some great suggestions for funny books to explore, read and enjoy together. Inspired by Merry the Giraffe from the Summer Reading Challenge's [Silly Squad](#), this pack will focus on her favourite things, learning cool things from non-fiction books. We hope you enjoy the books as well as the discussion and activity ideas, and further reading suggestions.

This pack is brought to you by **The Reading Agency** and their **Summer Reading Challenge** programme.

**The Reading Agency** has run Chatterbooks, the UK's largest network of children's reading groups, since 2001. Reading for pleasure has more impact on children's success than education or social class; Chatterbooks groups, which are run in libraries and schools, help children develop a lifelong reading habit. Chatterbooks is a flexible model that can be used with children from 4 to 12, for all different abilities and in targeted or mixed groups. Find out more at: [www.readinggroups.org/chatterbooks](http://www.readinggroups.org/chatterbooks)

You can buy Chatterbooks packs in The Reading Agency shop: <https://shop.readingagency.org.uk/collections/children>

You can find hundreds of free resources for children on the Chatterbooks resources page: <https://readingagency.org.uk/resources/?programme=chat>

**The Reading Agency** is a national charity that tackles life's big challenges through the proven power of reading. We work closely with partners to develop and deliver programmes for people of all ages and backgrounds. The Reading Agency is funded by Arts Council England. [www.readingagency.org.uk](http://www.readingagency.org.uk)

The **Summer Reading Challenge**, presented by The Reading Agency, is delivered in partnership with public libraries and funded by Arts Council England. The Challenge encourages children aged 4 to 11 to enjoy the benefits of reading for pleasure over the summer holidays, providing lots of fun and enjoyment as well as helping to prevent the summer reading 'dip'. <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/about-the-challenge>

### Contents

3. Talking about the books and warm up activity
5. Wonderful non-fiction – 100 Inventions That Made History
6. Wonderful non-fiction – 101 Brilliant Things for Kids to do with Science
8. Wonderful non-fiction – Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World
9. Wonderful non-fiction – Lesser Spotted Animals 2
11. Wonderful non-fiction – A Quick History of Maths
12. Wonderful non-fiction – So You Want to Build a Human?
13. More wonderful non-fiction book suggestions

[Tips for your Chatterbooks session](#)

## Talking about the books and warm up activity

### How do you like to get your information?

Have a look at a collection of different kinds of non-fiction books – there are many formats to choose from! Talk about which books people like best when reading about their favourite topics, or when finding out facts and information for homework.

Formats include

- Picture books
- Lots of text
- Lots of pictures
- Photos and/or illustrations
- Cartoons and comic strips
- Books with a 2-page spread for each aspect of the book's subject
- Lots of information snippets, highlighted or framed in boxes
- Devices such as: 'Did you know?' 'True or False' 'Fascinating Facts'
- Quizzes
- Charts and diagrams
- Information told through stories
- What else?

### Warm up

#### Inventors and discoverers: Wordsearch

On the wordsearch there are the names of some famous – and not so famous – inventors and discoverers, and the things they discovered.

Look for them in the squares - across, down, up, and from right to left.

When you've found them, match up each inventor to the invention with which they are associated.

Then talk together about what you know of each of them and their inventions – and find out more about them.

**See page 4 for wordsearch template and answers.**



**ALEXANDER FLEMING**  
**LOUIS BRAILLE**  
**COMPUTER PROGRAMS**  
**BRAILLE ALPHABET**

**THOMAS EDISON**  
**ADA LOVELACE**  
**LIGHT BULB**  
**PENICILLIN**

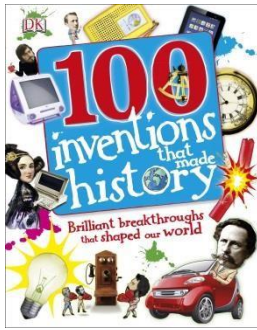
**MARIE CURIE**  
**MARCONI**  
**RADIUM**  
**RADIO**

C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	S
Y	P	V	X	V	E	Q	B	C	X	A	S	F	Z	V	Q
L	O	U	I	S	B	R	A	I	L	L	E	J	X	K	P
B	M	N	B	X	A	Q	X	J	X	Z	V	G	W	X	F
S	F	O	D	W	H	F	M	P	V	Q	J	F	B	G	A
W	X	S	X	K	P	X	A	F	Q	Z	B	V	X	J	D
G	N	I	M	E	L	F	R	E	D	N	A	X	E	L	A
X	F	D	Q	X	A	Z	C	J	Q	W	Z	V	F	M	L
R	X	E	K	J	E	X	O	I	D	A	R	X	C	H	O
A	Q	S	V	F	L	G	N	J	F	P	X	J	B	G	V
D	W	A	V	X	L	Z	I	Q	V	X	U	F	Z	K	E
I	V	M	A	R	I	E	C	U	R	I	E	Z	G	J	L
U	P	O	V	X	A	J	Z	Q	J	X	P	Q	X	G	A
M	E	H	K	Q	R	F	J	G	X	S	Z	W	J	V	C
Z	Q	T	W	F	B	L	U	B	T	H	G	I	L	Z	E
P	E	N	I	C	I	L	L	I	N	Z	G	X	Q	W	J

**Answers**

C	O	M	P	U	T	E	R	P	R	O	G	R	A	M	S
Y	P	V	X	V	E	Q	B	C	X	A	S	F	Z	V	Q
L	O	U	I	S	B	R	A	I	L	L	E	J	X	K	P
B	M	N	B	X	A	Q	X	J	X	Z	V	G	W	X	F
S	F	O	D	W	H	F	M	P	V	Q	J	F	B	G	A
W	X	S	X	K	P	X	A	F	Q	Z	B	V	X	J	D
G	N	I	M	E	L	F	R	E	D	N	A	X	E	L	A
X	F	D	Q	X	A	Z	C	J	Q	W	Z	V	F	M	L
R	X	E	K	J	E	X	O	I	D	A	R	X	C	H	O
A	Q	S	V	F	L	G	N	J	F	P	X	J	B	G	V
D	W	A	V	X	L	Z	I	Q	V	X	U	F	Z	K	E
I	V	M	A	R	I	E	C	U	R	I	E	Z	G	J	L
U	P	O	V	X	A	J	Z	Q	J	X	P	Q	X	G	A
M	E	H	K	Q	R	F	J	G	X	S	Z	W	J	V	C
Z	Q	T	W	F	B	L	U	B	T	H	G	I	L	Z	E
P	E	N	I	C	I	L	L	I	N	Z	G	X	Q	W	J

## Books



### 100 Inventions That Made History by DK

978-1409340980

Take a look at the trailblazing inventions that have advanced technology and transformed the way we live, as well as the gadgets and gizmos we couldn't live without! Each profile explores key inventions in depth, while gallery spreads bring together the major inventions in a particular area – e.g. On the Move; Getting Connected; Medical Marvels. And the inventions are put into historical context with “It couldn't have been done without...” and “It paved the way for...” panels. Have a look at the sections ‘Total turkeys’ (e.g. in 1896 a self-raising hat, and the 1982 Advanced Passenger Train!) and ‘Fantastic future’ (inventors are currently working on a toothphone, and how to make people invisible!)

## Discussion

### What is an invention? How do inventions come about?

Below are some dictionary definitions to get your discussion going – on a flip chart make a list of all the inventions and discoveries that your group can think of.

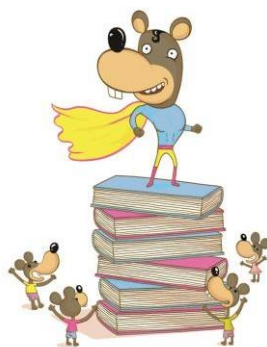
According to the dictionary, an invention can be:

- a new device, method or process, developed from study and experimentation
- a discovery
- creativity, for example in making up a story
- something that has never been made before

Talk about how a number of these are the result of one person's idea then being developed and improved by someone else. Then vote for the invention which people think has been most useful for the world. **Have you ever invented something?**

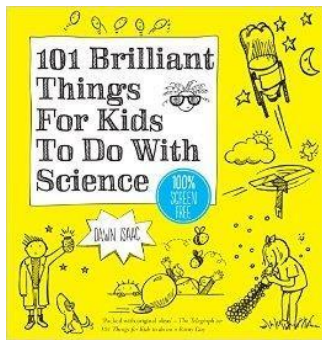
## Activity

### Guess the invention!



<b>Guess the Invention!</b>	<b>What am I?</b>
1. I was invented in China in 1498 – made from pig bristles and a piece of bone or bamboo. Would this get your teeth on edge?!	
2. Using me you can easily fasten up your jackets and jeans.	
3. With me you use up less water than when you have a bath.	
4. I'm very handy for opening a bottle of wine.	
5. We were invented in the 13 <sup>th</sup> century – to get a better view people had to balance us on the bridge of their nose.	
6. I pop up for your breakfast.	
7. You can wear me to breathe easily underwater	
8. I'm usually little and square and yellow: stick me wherever you like to keep you reminded about things!	

**\*Answers on page 13**



**101 Brilliant Things for Kids to do with Science by Dawn Isaac**  
**Kyle Books 978-0857833839**

Whether your child is crazy about chemistry or bananas about biology (or, let's face it, just likes making a mess), this book is choc-a- block full of experiments and projects that will get kids really excited about science - and all without going anywhere near a TV, tablet or computer screen. Whether they want to Launch a Rocket, Create a Giant Egg,

Blow a Bubble Snake or Build a Balloon Powered Racing Car, there's a whole wealth of fun suggestions to keep kids amused - and you never know, they might even learn something along the way.

**Discussion**

**What is non-fiction?**

Talk about non-fiction – facts, information etc - and the difference between fiction and non-fiction.

**Activity**

**Dewey Decimal Code**

This is all about the library's own special code to help you find information books – the Dewey Decimal Code.

Your group can do this Challenge in various ways, depending on their ages and abilities – e.g. starting with numbers and finding the books on the shelves; or starting with a list of

information subjects and looking them up in the library's Dewey chart or code book – then going to the shelves to find the books!

Talk about how the Dewey code works, grouping information books in subjects and making it easier to find the book you want.

Divide your group into 2 teams, or pairs, and give each team or pair a list of Dewey numbers. Ask them to find the books matching those numbers – one book for each number. The winning team/pair is the one that does this fastest and gets them all right.

This will probably work best in the library space if

- Teams take it in turns to find their books – ask someone to be a referee to time them!
- Each team has a different list of numbers (so the second team doesn't have an advantage!)

Or you could use a sheet like the one below and ask people to write down the title of each book next to its number.

The list can be in numerical order – or mixed up.

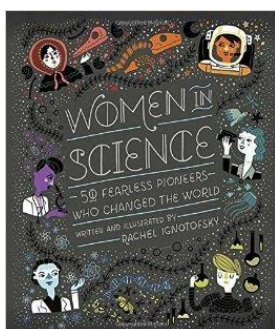
You could put the subject next to the number, to help people find the right books. You could also have a referee to check the books/titles against the lists of numbers.

<b>Dewey Number</b>	<b>Title of book found</b>
133 (Ghosts)	
520 (Stars, planets)	
560 (Dinosaurs & fossils)	
599 (Mammals)	
612 (Human Body)	
629 (Cars)	
636 (Pets)	
641 (Food and drink)	
796 (Football)	
917 (North America)	
920 (Biographies)	

Here's a suggested template for the harder version, where you have a list of subjects and need to find out the Dewey code number before finding the books.

Remember that for some of the subjects you need to home in on a Key Word so that you can find the Dewey Code number – e.g. for the subject *Keeping a rabbit as a pet* try *Pets* as well as *Rabbits*

Subject	Code	Title of book found
<i>Space exploration</i>		
<i>Cars</i>		
<i>Keeping a rabbit as a pet</i> Tip: Try <i>Pets</i> when you are looking for the Dewey Code number		
<i>World War 1</i>		
<i>Cookery</i>		
<i>Rugby</i>		
<i>The Fire of London</i> Tip: If you can't find this in the Dewey Code book, find the code for <i>English History</i> & look there		



**Women in Science: 50 Fearless Pioneers Who Changed the World by Rachel Ignotofsky**  
**Wren & Rook 978- 1526360519**

Women in Science highlights the contributions of fifty notable women to the STEM fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics, from both the ancient and modern worlds. The book also contains fascinating infographics and an illustrated scientific glossary.

The extraordinary women profiled include well-known figures like the physicist and chemist Marie Curie, as well as lesser-known pioneers such as Katherine Johnson, the African-American mathematician who calculated the trajectory of the Apollo 11 mission to the moon. Women in Science celebrates the achievements of the intrepid women who have paved the way for the next generation of female engineers, biologists, mathematicians, doctors, astronauts, physicists and beyond...



## Discussion

### How do you like to get your facts and information?

Which of these are you?

- A fact gatherer – collecting key facts, making lists and top tens
- A pictures person – exploring pictures to see what they tell you. It is often said that ‘a picture is worth a thousand words’
- A words person – someone who likes a good chunk of information to read or someone who likes to get their info through a good story
- A charts and diagrams person – enjoying graphics and visual ways of presenting data

Talk in your group about all these different ways of accessing and recording information – what works best for each person in your group?

## Activity

### Be Info Challenge Quiz Masters!

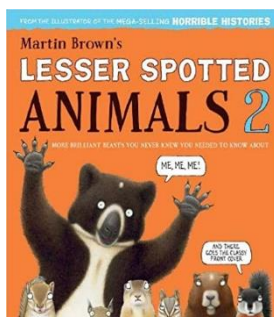
Plan and run your own quiz. This could work in several ways – e.g.

- Your group researches and sets the questions, and then runs the quiz for their classmates to take part, answering the questions
- Divide into two teams – each team researches a set of questions and they ask the other team the questions



Suggestions for your quiz:

- Divide it up into rounds, each with a different subject – say 5 questions per round
- Have one of these rounds as ‘General Knowledge’
- 6 rounds is probably plenty
- Have a tie-breaker in case there’s a draw. This could be the best of 3 questions



### Lesser Spotted Animals 2 by Martin Brown

David Fickling 9781788450409

Bored with the usual suspects? Got a thirst for more nifty nature knowledge and a love of the unknown underdog? Then Lesser Spotted Animals 2 is the book for you! Discover more brilliant beasts you never knew you needed to know about from the alai argali to the yellow-throated marten and everything in between.

## Discussion

**What facts about animals do the you know?** These can include facts about their pets (e.g. what they like to eat).

The group can use other non-fiction animal books to find other facts and create a display using post-it notes with their favourite animal facts. This can then become an interactive display with other members of the library adding to the display.

## Activity

### Animal similes

Using animal similes can make a story come alive.

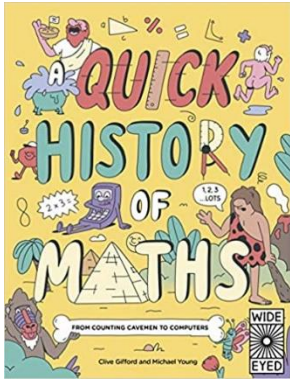
When using animal similes, we have to remember that some animal similes can be an insult and some can be flattering. It is a very powerful descriptive tool for writers and poets that you can use in your writing.

Here are some examples:

- As angry as a hornet
- As blind as a bat
- As brave as a lion
- As busy as a bee
- As eager as a beaver
- As free as a bird
- As graceful as a gazelle
- As gentle as a lamb
- As happy as a lark
- As hairy as a gorilla
- As hungry as a horse

As a group, see if you can add to this list – then come up with a story, using at least three of these animal similes.





**A Quick History of Maths: From Counting Cavemen to Big Data**  
**by Clive Gifford and Michael Young**  
**Wide Eyed Editions, 978-0711249011**

Maths + history + jokes - boring bits = A Quick History of Maths. This book begins around 43,000 years ago with a notched baboon leg, the Lebombo bone (the very first mathematical object in the world) and rushes us past Hindu numerals and the invention of zero, via Pythagoras, Pascal and probability, right up to the present day, with big data and the maths that rules our digital lives. Geometri-cool!

### **Discussion**

#### **Writing and publishing a non-fiction book**

In A Quick History of Maths, the authors had to do lots of research to write a whole book about the amazing history of maths. How do the authors make the topic interesting? If you were writing a non-fiction book, what are all the things you need to think about to make a really good book?

Talk about and list all the things needed to get a book written and published. Who does each of these things? – e.g author, illustrator, publisher.

Here are some starters for your list:

- Getting a good idea for a subject which people will want to read about
- Who will be the readers/audience for the book?
- Researching and finding out all about the subject
- Deciding how to present the information about this subject – e.g. lots of text; snappy text; any pictures; what kind of pictures
- Writing the text!
- Making sure the text and pictures are accurate – and will suit your audience

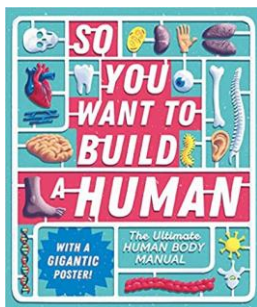
### **Activity**

#### **Create your own non-fiction book!**

Let the children think of a topic they are particularly interested in and already know lots about. It could be anything from football to their favourite pop star.

Using the list created during the discussion let the group begin to plan and research their book.

Once created the children can use the Dewey Decimal System to create their own ISBNs.



**So You Want to Build a Human? by Tom Jackson and Jan Bielecki  
Welbeck Publishing Group 978-1783125272**

Open your 'human body construction guide' to reveal the answers to all your puzzling human biology questions! Find out what each body system does and how they fit together to create a living, breathing person.

Styled as a construction guide, readers will explore the ten major body systems from the inside out – from your bones to your nerves! Each spread contains body part checklists and 'Don't forget' notes for key information, while a mini human body on each spread depicting the relevant body system works as a useful navigation tool when flicking through the book. The human engineer slant imparts STEM concepts for budding biologists and doctors. Prepare to get under the skin of the human body machine and find out what makes it tick.

### **Discussion**

On separate bits of paper write down different parts of the body covered in So You Want to Build a Human – e.g. 'fishing', 'dinosaurs', and put them all in a hat.

Each person gets to pull a word out of the hat – they then either tell the group a fact about this subject, or nominate someone else to answer. This works really well, especially when certain children are known for loving certain topics.

### **Activity**

#### **Be a presenter!**

Imagine you are asked to give a TV presentation about a book which has been written about your favourite subject!

Ask each person in your group to choose a subject they are especially interested in and find a book about their subject. Next, prepare a short presentation, saying something about the subject and then talk about the book, saying why it is a good book (or not!) about the subject.

It would be great to film or record everyone's presentations and then have a special show or share with other Chatterbooks groups!

Here's a suggested outline people could use for planning their presentation:

#### **Presentation plan**

- Opening – something interesting about your subject to get people listening
- Up to 3 things about your subject
- Why you like your subject!
- Show the book you have chosen and briefly say what's in it and how it gets information across
- Why you think it's a good book (or, why you don't recommend it!)

PRESENTATION PLAN
✓ Opening – something interesting about your subject to get people listening
✓ Up to 3 things about your subject
✓ Why you like your subject!
✓ Show the book you have chosen and briefly say what's in it and how it gets information across
✓ Why you think it's a good book (or, why you don't recommend it!)

### More wonderful non-fiction book suggestions

#### Children's non-fiction book awards

If you want more suggestions for great non-fiction books then check out the longlist and shortlist titles for the recent book prizes.

- [SLA Information Book Award 2020](#) – this includes downloadable activity sheets and you can see videos for the shortlist here:  
[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0Tov5tGK4qtBkHuTWNAOfP4bdh\\_gRX6q](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL0Tov5tGK4qtBkHuTWNAOfP4bdh_gRX6q)
- [Royal Society Young People's Book Award 2020](#)
- [Blue Peter Book Awards: Best Book with Facts 2020](#)

#### Answers to Guess the Invention on page 6

1. toothbrush
2. zip fastener
3. shower
4. corkscrew
5. spectacles
6. toaster
7. aqualung
8. post-it notes