

Lesson of the Week!



THE YOUNG SCIENTIST

AN INTRODUCTION TO
Observation & Research

DISCOVERY





Every scientist loves making a new discovery!

But what is a discovery?

It can be as simple as finding out something new, like discovering a bird's nest you never saw before. Or it can be a more important kind of science discovery.

When a scientist makes a discovery, it usually means they've just learned something that no one ever knew before, like finding out how to make a new kind of metal, or finding a new kind of plant in the middle of a rainforest.

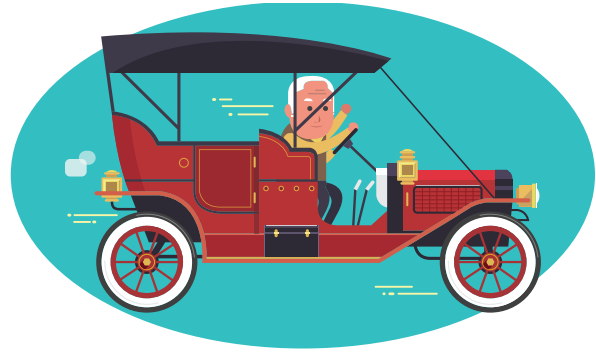


There's a lesson about discovering things that scientists learn over and over:

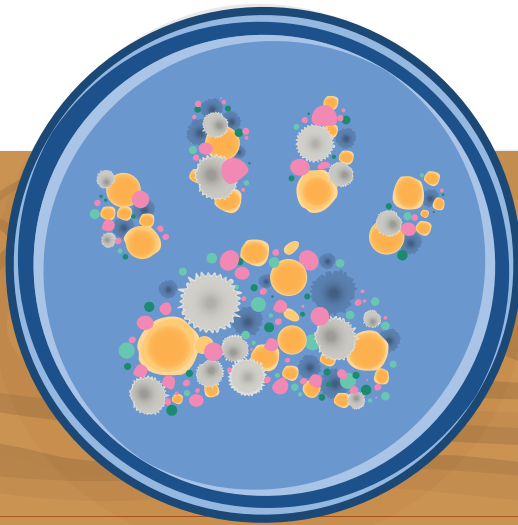
Always be willing
to keep looking, to
change your mind,
and see what new
things you can learn.

Being a scientist means being able to look at something you are familiar with in a new way. It also means being willing to change your mind if what you see is different from what you thought you would see.

In 1928, Dr. Alexander Fleming decided to take a vacation. He left behind his lab, where he was working on a cure for a disease. Upon his return, he found mold growing in a dish of diseased cells he'd been studying.



This moment turned out to be one of the most important moments in the history of human health. Dr. Fleming might have thought, “Oh, that test is wrecked because of the mold,” and simply thrown it away. Instead, he remained curious about it. He figured maybe there was something there he didn’t know, something new he could learn.



So he decided to carefully observe the mold. When he did, he made an amazing discovery: the mold was stopping the growth of the disease!



Over the next 14 years, other doctors worked to understand what had happened in Dr. Fleming's lab. Finally, a tremendously successful medicine was created from a mold. You may have heard of it: penicillin. Penicillin is a type of medicine called an antibiotic, used to cure infections.

This single discovery changed the world.
It has saved millions and millions of lives.



So if you keep observing, keep asking questions, and are always willing to look at things in new ways, you just might make some exciting discoveries of your own!

MAKE A DISCOVERY!



For this activity you will need

- your science journal
- pencil

Steps

- 1 Go make a discovery. Find out something new, something you didn't know about before.
- 2 Write down what you discovered.
- 3 Share your discovery with someone.