

MYSTERY
science
at home

We're here to help.

We know school closures and distance learning pose new challenges for teachers, students and families.

This guide highlights some Mystery Science features that can save you time and help make remote learning more engaging and enjoyable for everyone.

Have fun & stay curious!

Mystery Science + Distance Learning

Shareable, no-login lessons

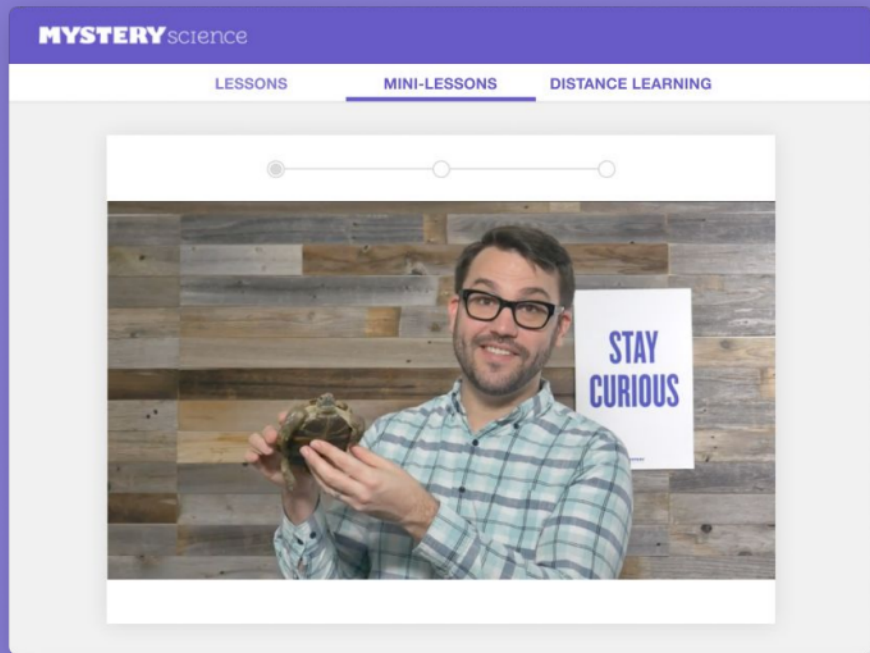
Share videos directly with students
—no student accounts necessary

Built-in narration by a master teacher

Engaging video lessons and activities led by Doug, our expert Science teacher

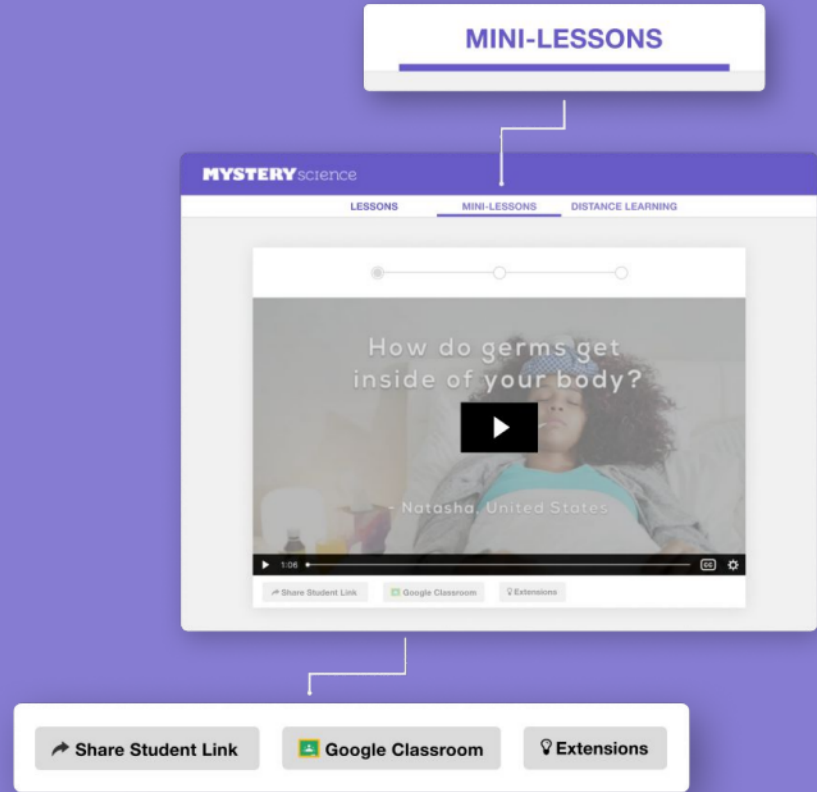
Assignable on Google Classroom

Digital handouts, assessments, at-home extension activities—all at your fingertips and ready to assign



Mini-lessons are easy for students at home

- Short video lessons that answer real kids' questions
- Discussion questions to encourage reflection
- **NEW!** Extension questions and bonus activities
- **NEW!** Google Classroom integration



Standards-aligned lessons if you have more time

- Full, standards-aligned lessons + hands-on activities
- **NEW!** Digital assessments that collect student responses
- **NEW!** Digital handouts that students can fill in — no printing required
- **NEW!** Google Classroom integration
- **NEW!** Choose which parts of a lesson to send students via Student Link

LESSONS

The screenshot shows the MYSTERY science website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with 'LESSONS', 'MINI-LESSONS', and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. Below this, a lesson card is displayed with a video player showing a frog. The video title is 'Why do frogs say "ribbit?"'. Below the video, there are three sections: 'Activity Prep', 'Overview', and 'Share Lesson', each with a form for input. The 'Share Lesson' section is highlighted by a callout box on the right.

Share Lesson

➔ Share student link

📌 Google Classroom

✉ Email parents

Extensions

📖 Reading

💡 Assessments

📺 Video

➕ Activity

📄 Transcripts

A curated Distance Learning Collection

- Browse a selection of our favorite lessons for remote learning
- Find engaging lessons to fit any schedule
- **NEW!** No-prep activities that students can do solo in-class or at home (zero printing required!)

The screenshot shows the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, a white callout box with the text "DISTANCE LEARNING" has a line pointing to the "DISTANCE LEARNING" link in the navigation menu. The website header includes "MYSTERYscience" and navigation links for "LESSONS", "MINI-LESSONS", and "DISTANCE LEARNING". The main heading is "Distance Learning Collection" with the subtitle "Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning". Below this, there are two sections: "No-prep activities" and "Mini-lessons".

No-prep activities Activities for in-class or at-home, solo or with others. No print-outs needed:

- Biodiversity**: Why are so many people scared of bugs? (K-5)
- Sound & Animal Communication**: Why do owls say "hoo"? (K-5)
- Ecosystems**: Why are flamingos pink? (K-5)
- Communication**: How were emojis created? (K-5)

Mini-lessons 5 min

- K-5**: How does hand sanitizer (K-5)
- K-5**: How deep does the ocean (K-5)
- K-5**: Why do baby animals look (K-5)
- K-5**: Can you make lava? (K-5)

Guides and suggestions for adapting lessons

- [Distance Learning Guide PDFs](#) for each grade level with suggestions for adapting our standards-aligned lesson activities
- **NEW!** You'll also see these ideas for "COVID-19 Adaptations" on the lesson pages of our website

GRADE 3 UNIT **Animals Through Time**

MYSTERY
SCIENCE

View this unit here	Teaching in the classroom	Teaching online
Lesson 1 Ready to Teach <i>Where can you find whales in the desert?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students do the activity solo.• No supply adjustments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Send each student home with 3 stickers, the Fossil Dig template and the Mystery Fossils template (digital copies will not work).• Students will also need a printed or digital version of the Fossil Dig Questions.
Lesson 2 Ready to Teach <i>How do we know what dinosaurs looked like?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students do the activity solo.• No supply adjustments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students do the activity at home.• Send each student home with a copy of the What Do These Animals Eat printout (or assign the digital version).
Lesson 3 Substitute Activity <i>Can you outrun a dinosaur?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try this activity from the American Museum of Natural History called Be a Sleuth: How Dinosaurs Behaved.• Students work as "dinosaur detectives" to examine fossil footprints for clues about dinosaur behavior. (For a PDF version, click the How Dinosaurs Behaved link below the text)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Try this activity from the American Museum of Natural History called Be a Sleuth: How Dinosaurs Behaved.• Students work as "dinosaur detectives" to examine fossil footprints for clues about dinosaur behavior. (For a PDF version, click the How Dinosaurs Behaved link below the text)
Lesson 4 Ready to Teach <i>What kinds of animals might there be in the future?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students do the activity solo.• No supply adjustments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have students do the activity at home.• Send each student home with a copy of the Designer Dogs printout (or assign the digital version).

Ready to get started?

Here's how:

1. Choose a lesson.
2. Select **Google Classroom** or **Share Student Link**.
3. Assign lesson to students at home.

Go find a lesson:

[STANDARDS-ALIGNED LESSONS](#)

[MINI-LESSONS](#)

[DISTANCE LEARNING
COLLECTION](#)

Want to see more remote learning features? See our [**Distance Learning How-to Guide**](#).

Distance Learning How-To Guide



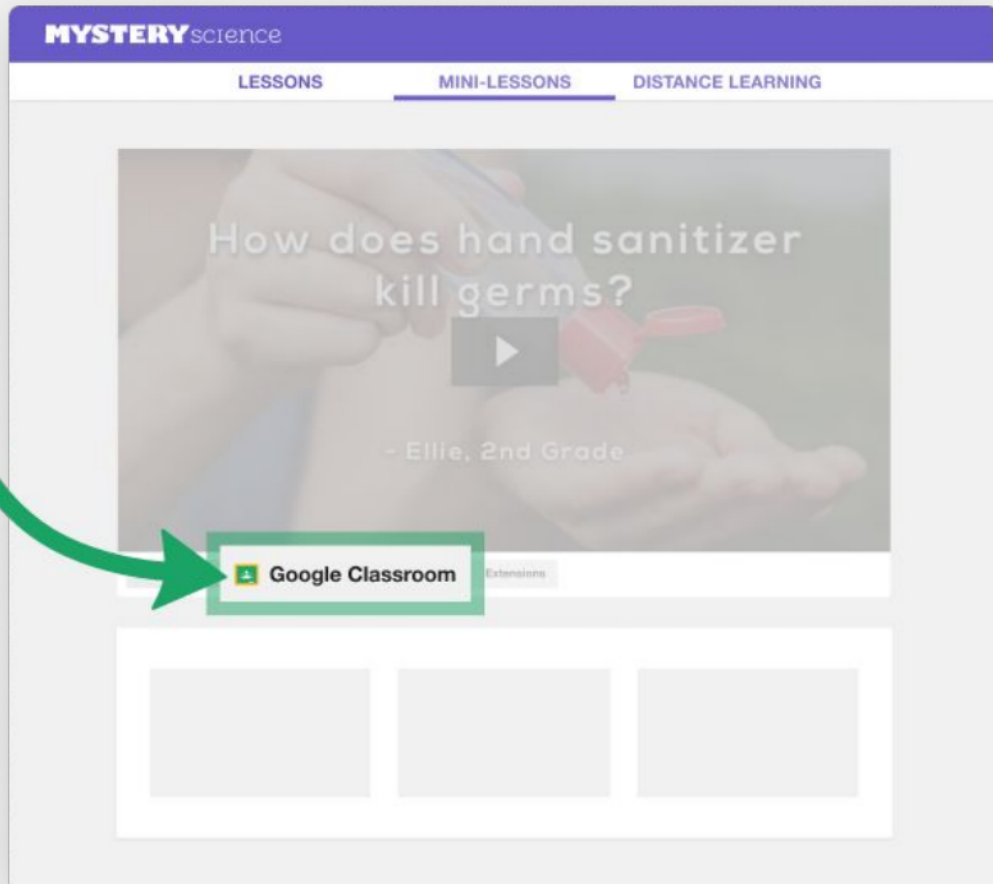
HOW TO ASSIGN

Mini-Lesson Videos

Click the **Google Classroom** button to quickly share videos with students.

Not using Google Classroom?

*No problem - simply copy and paste the **Student Link** to share the video.*



The screenshot shows the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the logo 'MYSTERYscience'. Below the header, there are three navigation tabs: 'LESSONS', 'MINI-LESSONS' (which is currently selected and underlined), and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. The main content area features a video player with a play button. The video title is 'How does hand sanitizer kill germs?' and it is attributed to '- Ellie, 2nd Grade'. Below the video player, there is a row of social sharing buttons. The 'Google Classroom' button is highlighted with a green rectangular box, and a green curved arrow points from the text 'Click the Google Classroom button' to this button. To the right of the 'Google Classroom' button is a smaller 'Extensions' button. Below the social sharing buttons, there are three empty rectangular boxes, likely placeholders for more content or related videos.

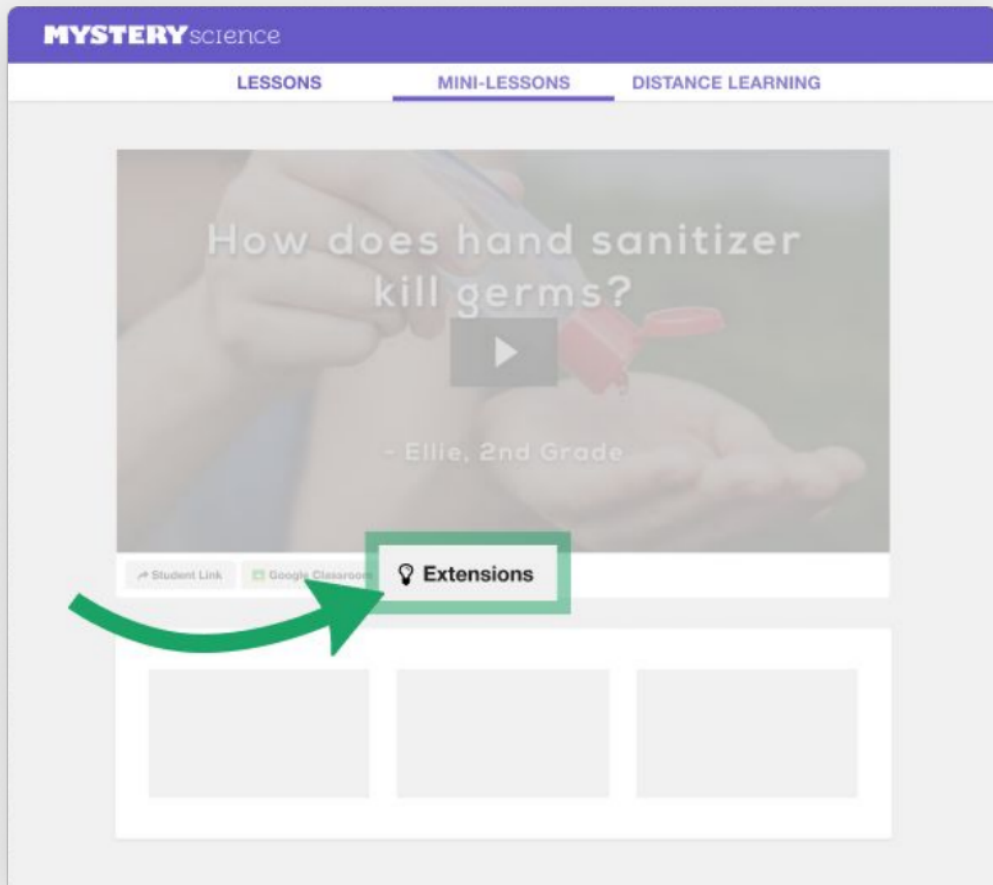
HOW TO ASSIGN

Mini-Lesson Activities

Click on **Extensions** to assign follow-up questions and simple, offline activities.

These questions are automatically added to the instructions when you assign them in Google Classroom.

Or, copy and paste them into any document, assignment or email.



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HOW TO ASSIGN

Standards-aligned Lessons

Click **Share student link** button on the lesson page to share the video with students.

New! You can now choose which parts of the lesson to share with students. Share the entire lesson or just the section you need!

The image shows a screenshot of the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the text "MYSTERYscience". Below the header, there are three navigation tabs: "LESSONS", "MINI-LESSONS", and "DISTANCE LEARNING". The "LESSONS" tab is currently selected. In the center of the page, a white modal window titled "Share student link" is open. This modal contains a dropdown menu labeled "Student link for:" with "Entire lesson" selected, and a blue "Copy link" button to its right. Below this, there is a section titled "Assign to..." with five options, each in a grey box with a dropdown arrow: "Google Classroom", "Seesaw", "Schoolology", "Canvas", and "Microsoft Teams". In the bottom right corner of the main page, there is a "Share Lesson" section with a button labeled "Share student link" that has a green arrow pointing to it from the right. The background of the page is a light grey with a blue and white cloud pattern.

HOW TO ASSIGN

Standards-aligned Lessons

Or, click the **Google Classroom** button to assign lesson on Google Classroom.

Not using Google Classroom?

*No problem - click **Share student link** to see instructions for sharing lessons on other platforms.*

The screenshot shows the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the text "MYSTERYscience". Below the header, there are three navigation tabs: "LESSONS", "MINI-LESSONS", and "DISTANCE LEARNING". The "LESSONS" tab is currently selected. The main content area features a large video player with a play button and the text "Where do clouds come from?". Below the video player, there are two columns of content. The left column is titled "Activity Prep" and contains several horizontal lines representing text. The right column is titled "Overview" and also contains several horizontal lines. Below the "Overview" section, there is a "Share Lesson" section with a text input field. At the bottom of the "Share Lesson" section, there is a button labeled "Google Classroom" with a green icon, which is highlighted with a green border and a green arrow pointing to it from the right.

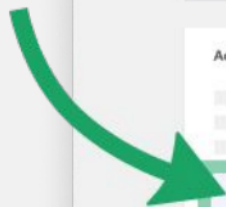
Where do clouds come from?

HOW TO ADAPT

Hands-on Activities

Our standards-aligned lessons include hands-on activities, but we know it's tough to teach them remotely!

Look at the **Covid-19 Adaptations** section to see our suggestions for adapting each lesson activity.



Activity Prep

COVID-19 Adaptations

- ✓ Students can work solo 🗑️ Students need a printout

🏠 Students at home

Each student will need a copy of the Gas Trap printout.

🏫 Students at school

Note: You'll need to pour warm water into each student's cup.

Overview

Share Lesson

Extensions

HOW TO ASSIGN

Digital Handouts

Students can type on editable documents as if they were writing on a handout.

Open any handout document, and click **Share digital worksheet**.

This will save a copy of the document to your Google Drive to assign in Google Classroom.

Print Download **Share digital worksheet** English Spanish

GAS TRAP

Name: _____

MYSTERY science
Stormy Skies | Mystery 1

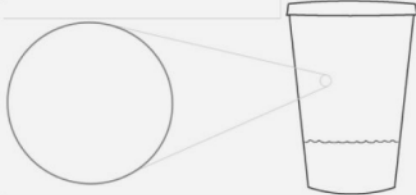
Gas Trap Tester

↓

Can you read all these words through your cup?
Maybe you can, maybe not.
To find out—try it and see!

1. Before you begin the experiment, try reading your GAS TRAP TESTER through your cup. What's the last line you can read? Write it here:

2. Now that you have the warm water, try reading the GAS TRAP TESTER through your cup again. What's the last line you can read now? Write it here:

3. Look at the sides of your cup up close (as close as you can). Draw what you see in the circle below:


WAIT TO DO QUESTION #4 UNTIL AFTER YOUR CLASS DISCUSSION

4. Open the lid and feel the inside of the cup. How does it feel? _____
Feel the bottom of the lid. How does that feel? _____

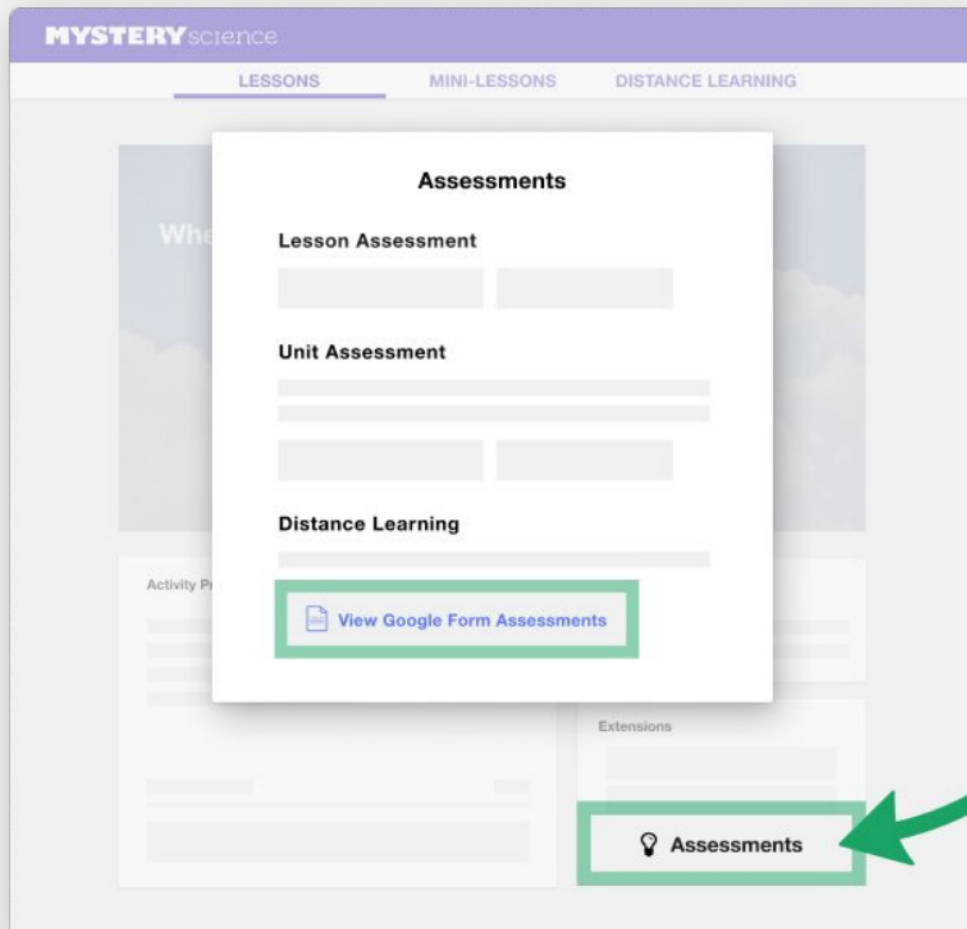
HOW TO ASSIGN

Google Forms Assessments

Click on **Assessments** (under Extensions on the lesson page).

Find Google Forms assessments under **Distance Learning**.

Or, click [HERE](#) to access all of our assessments in the Google Forms format.



More to explore!

Not sure where to start?

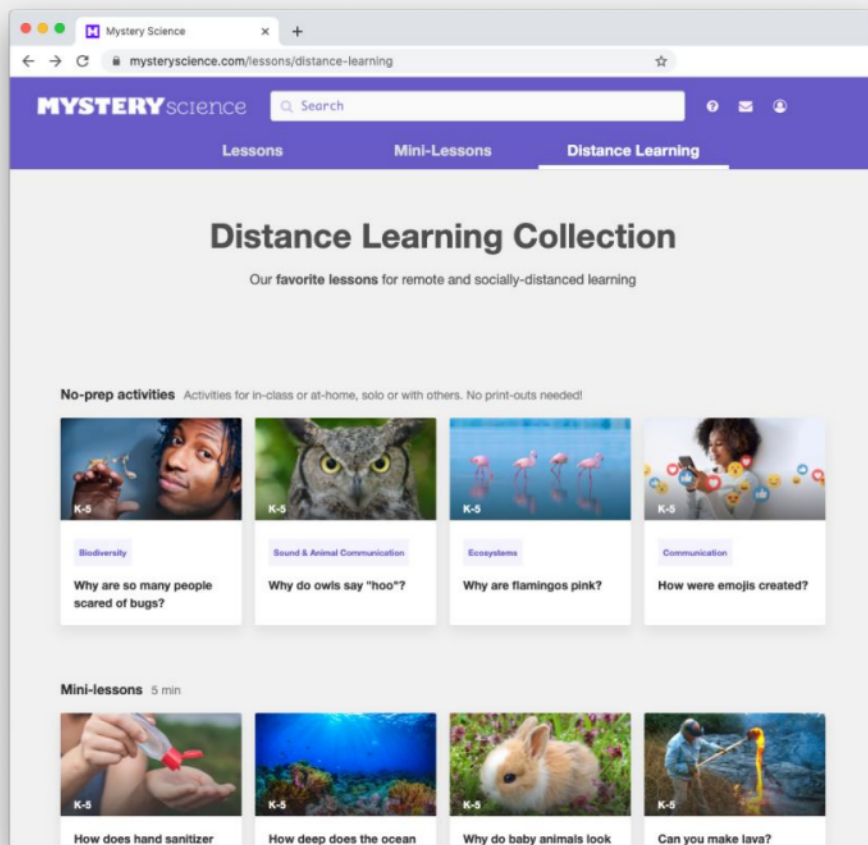
Browse [our curated list](#) of the easiest science lessons to do at home.

Looking for offline options?

From our community of creative teachers, [some offline activities](#) aligned to grade levels and Mystery Science units.

Looking for extra activities?

From our friends at Seesaw and the Minnesota Zoo, [a list of activities](#) aligned to popular Mystery Science mini-lessons.



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `mysteryscience.com/lessons/distance-learning`. The page features a purple header with the Mystery Science logo and navigation tabs for Lessons, Mini-Lessons, and Distance Learning. The main content area is titled "Distance Learning Collection" and includes a sub-header: "Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning".

Under the "No-prep activities" section, there are four cards:

- Biodiversity:** Why are so many people scared of bugs? (Image: A person holding a small insect.)
- Sound & Animal Communication:** Why do owls say "hoo"? (Image: An owl's face.)
- Ecosystems:** Why are flamingos pink? (Image: Three pink flamingos in water.)
- Communication:** How were emojis created? (Image: A person looking at a smartphone with various emoji icons floating around.)

Under the "Mini-lessons" section (5 min), there are four cards:

- K-5:** How does hand sanitizer (Image: Hands being washed with sanitizer.)
- K-5:** How deep does the ocean (Image: An underwater scene with coral and fish.)
- K-5:** Why do baby animals look (Image: A small white rabbit.)
- K-5:** Can you make lava? (Image: A person using a tool to create a yellow lava-like substance.)