

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

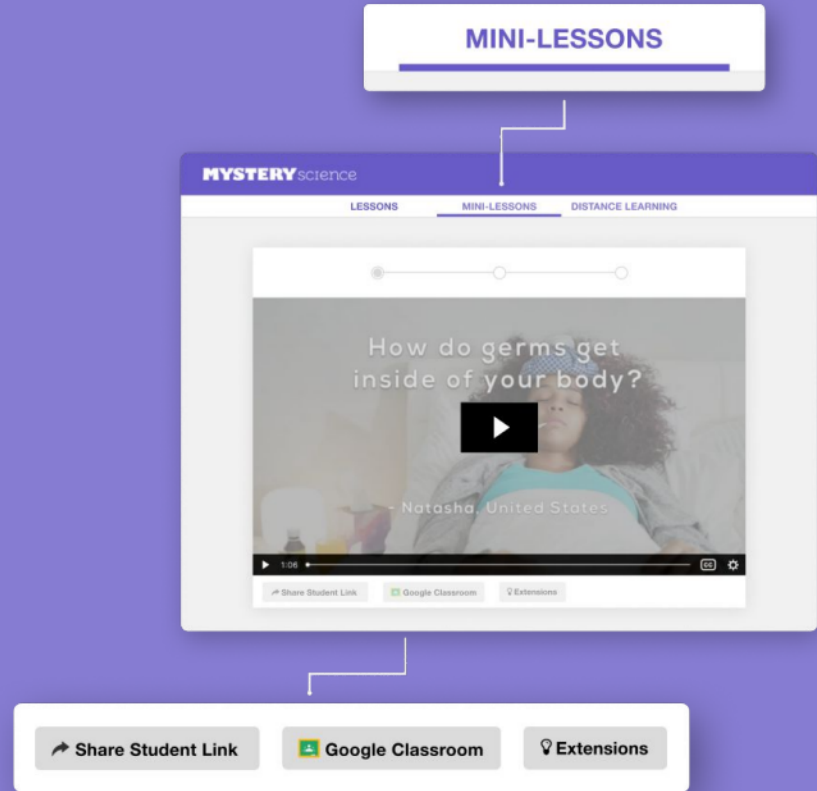
Assignable on Google Classroom

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 video player displays a frog with its mouth open, and the title 'Why do frogs say "ribbit?"'. The video player includes a play button and duration information: 'Exploration 18 min', 'Hands-On Activity 20 min', and 'Wrap-Up 8 min'. Below the video, there are sections for 'Activity Prep', 'Overview', and 'Share Lesson', each containing several horizontal lines representing text input fields.

The 'Share Lesson' menu overlay is positioned on the right side of the screen. It contains the following options:

- 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!)

DISTANCE LEARNING

The screenshot shows the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the logo 'MYSTERYscience' and three menu items: 'LESSONS', 'MINI-LESSONS', and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. The 'DISTANCE LEARNING' menu item is highlighted with a blue underline. Below the navigation bar, the main heading reads 'Distance Learning Collection' with the subtitle 'Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning'. Underneath, there is a section for 'No-prep activities' with the subtext 'Activities for in-class or at-home, solo or with others. No print-outs needed:'. This section contains four lesson cards, each with a 'K-5' label, a topic label, and a question: 1. 'Biodiversity' with the question 'Why are so many people scared of bugs?'; 2. 'Sound & Animal Communication' with the question 'Why do owls say "hoo"?'; 3. 'Ecosystems' with the question 'Why are flamingos pink?'; 4. 'Communication' with the question 'How were emojis created?'. Below this is a section for 'Mini-lessons' with a '5 min' duration. It contains four lesson cards, each with a 'K-5' label and a question: 1. 'How does hand sanitizer'; 2. 'How deep does the ocean'; 3. 'Why do baby animals look'; 4. 'Can you make lava?'. A white callout box with the text 'DISTANCE LEARNING' is positioned at the top right of the image, with a white line pointing to the 'DISTANCE LEARNING' menu item in the website screenshot.

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 is a navigation bar with three 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 buttons: a green 'Google Classroom' button with a person icon, and a grey 'Extensions' button. A green arrow points from the text on the left to the 'Google Classroom' button. Below the buttons, there are three empty rectangular boxes, likely placeholders for other content or links.

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. A green box highlights the "Share student link" button in this section, and a green arrow points from the right edge of the image towards this button.

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 logo "MYSTERYscience" and three navigation tabs: "LESSONS", "MINI-LESSONS", and "DISTANCE LEARNING". Below the header is a large video player area with a blue play button and the text "Where do clouds come from?". Underneath the video player 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 is a "Share Lesson" section with a text input field. At the bottom of the "Share Lesson" section, there is a button with the Google Classroom logo and the text "Google Classroom". A green arrow points to this button.

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.)