

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

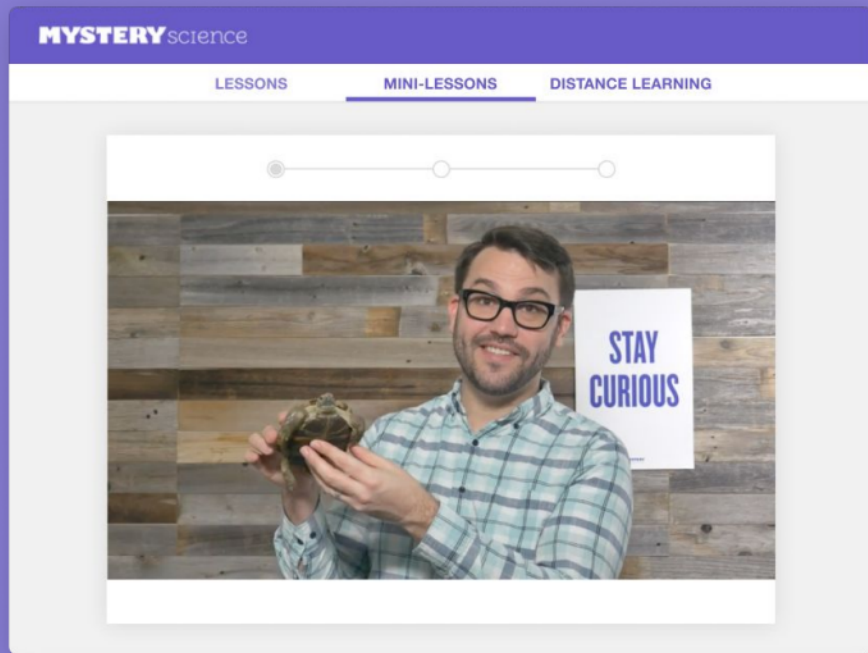
Share videos directly with students
—no student accounts necessary

Built-in narration by a master teacher

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

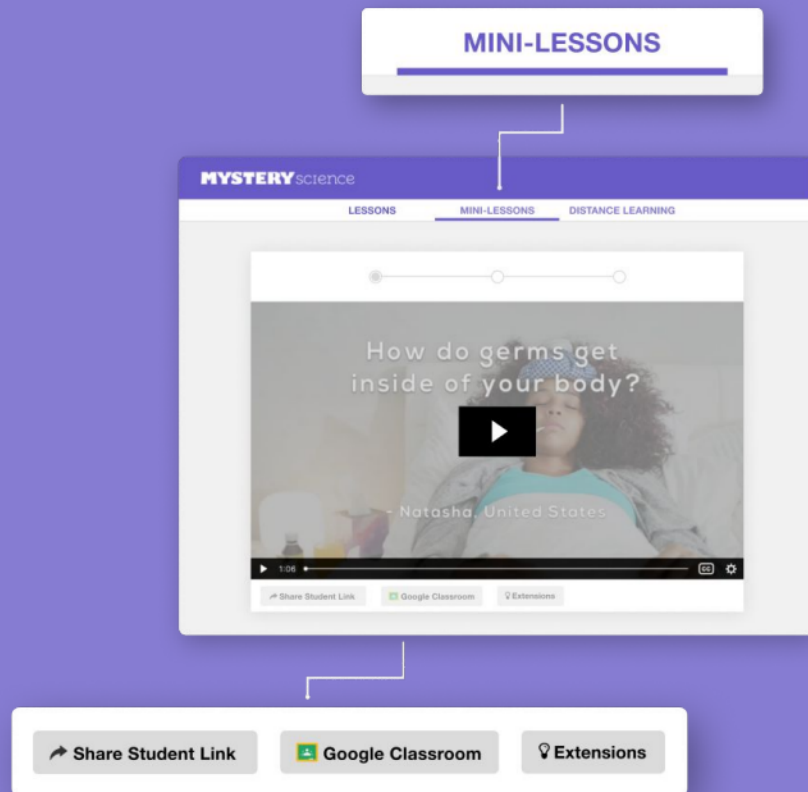
Assignable on Google Classroom

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



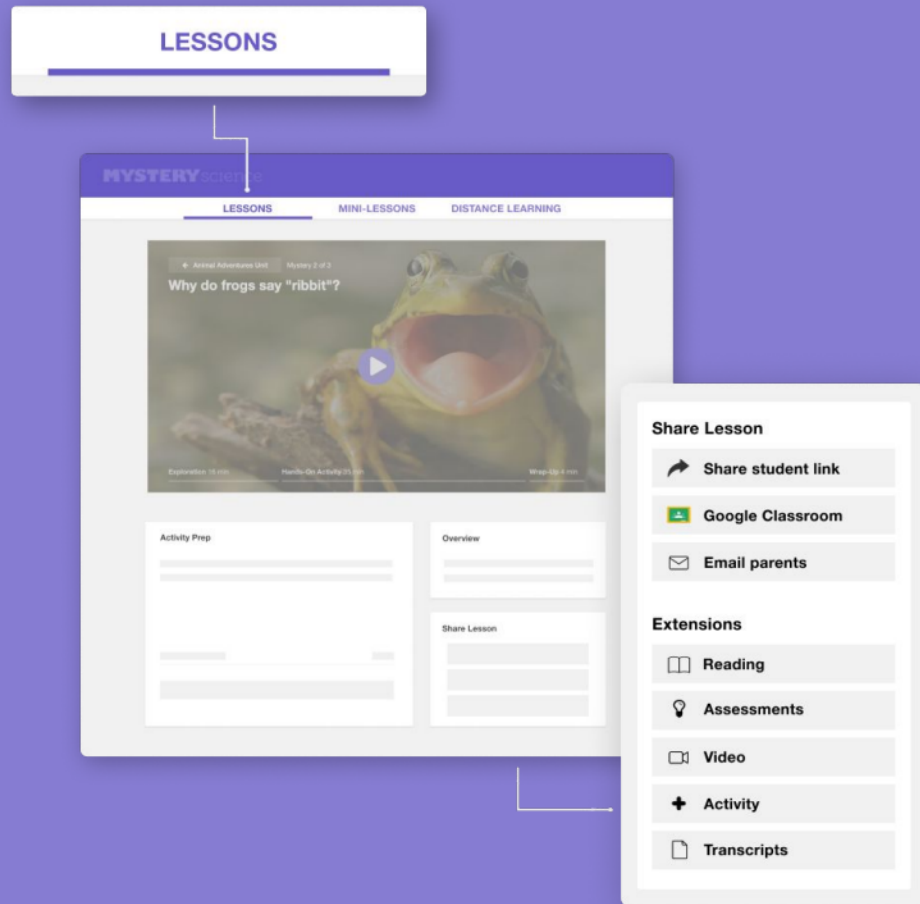
Mini-lessons are easy for students at home

- 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



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's 'Distance Learning' section. At the top, a navigation bar includes 'LESSONS', 'MINI-LESSONS', and 'DISTANCE LEARNING' (which is highlighted). Below the navigation bar, the title 'Distance Learning Collection' is displayed, followed by the subtitle 'Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning'. The main content area is divided into two sections. The first section, 'No-prep activities', is described as 'Activities for in-class or at-home, solo or with others. No print-outs needed!'. It features four activity cards: 1) 'Biodiversity' with the question 'Why are so many people scared of bugs?' and a photo of a person; 2) 'Sound & Animal Communication' with the question 'Why do owls say "hoo"?' and a photo of an owl; 3) 'Ecosystems' with the question 'Why are flamingos pink?' and a photo of flamingos; 4) 'Communication' with the question 'How were emojis created?' and a photo of a person with colorful emojis. The second section, 'Mini-lessons', is labeled '5 min' and features four lesson cards: 1) 'How does hand sanitizer' with a photo of hands being washed; 2) 'How deep does the ocean' with a photo of an underwater scene; 3) 'Why do baby animals look' with a photo of a baby rabbit; 4) 'Can you make lava?' with a photo of a person making a lava lamp.

MYSTERYscience

LESSONS MINI-LESSONS DISTANCE LEARNING

Distance Learning Collection

Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning

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

Biodiversity	Sound & Animal Communication	Ecosystems	Communication
Why are so many people scared of bugs?	Why do owls say "hoo"?	Why are flamingos pink?	How were emojis created?

Mini-lessons 5 min

How does hand sanitizer	How deep does the ocean	Why do baby animals look	Can you make lava?

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>	- Have students do the activity solo. - No supply adjustments.	- 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>	- Have students do the activity solo. - No supply adjustments.	- 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>	- 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)	- 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>	- Have students do the activity solo. - No supply adjustments.	- 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



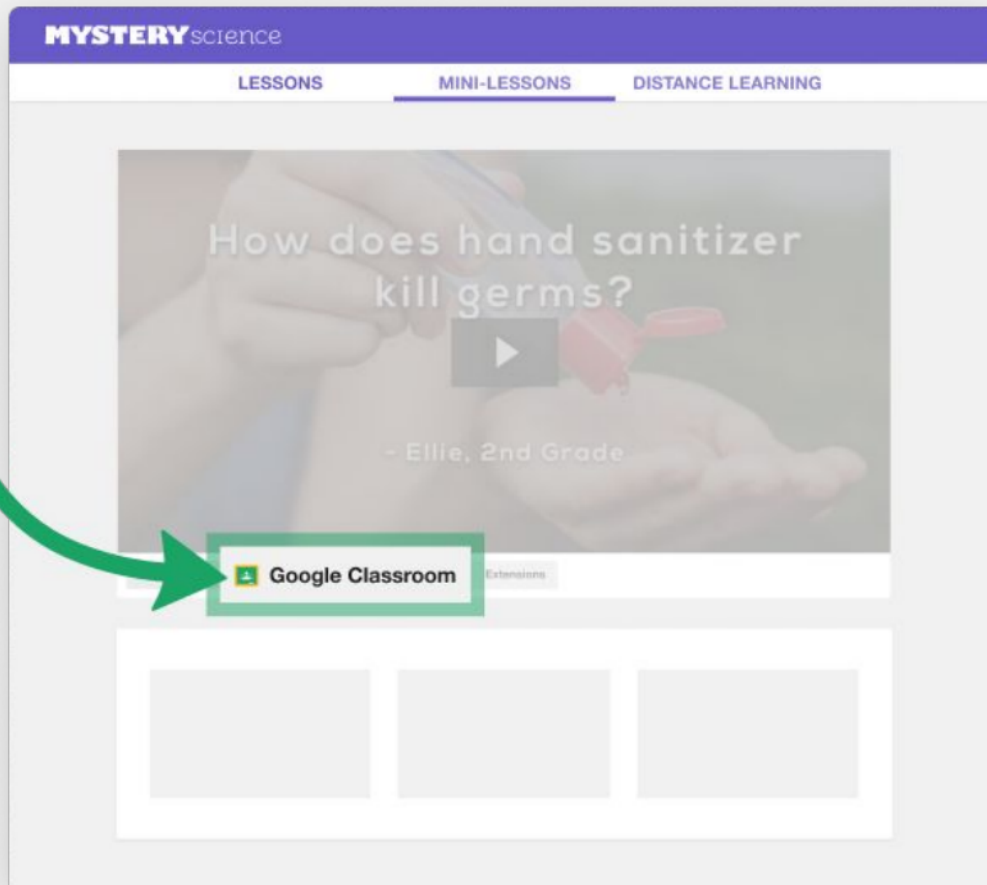
HOW TO ASSIGN

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.*



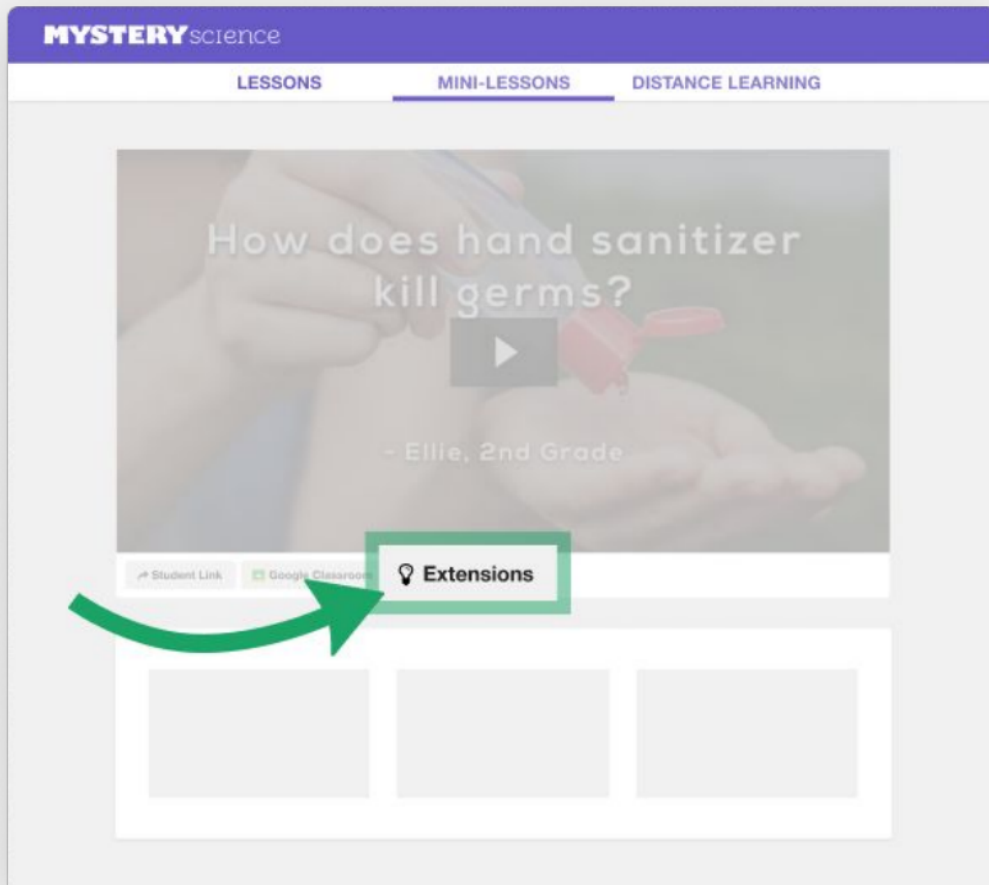
HOW TO ASSIGN

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.

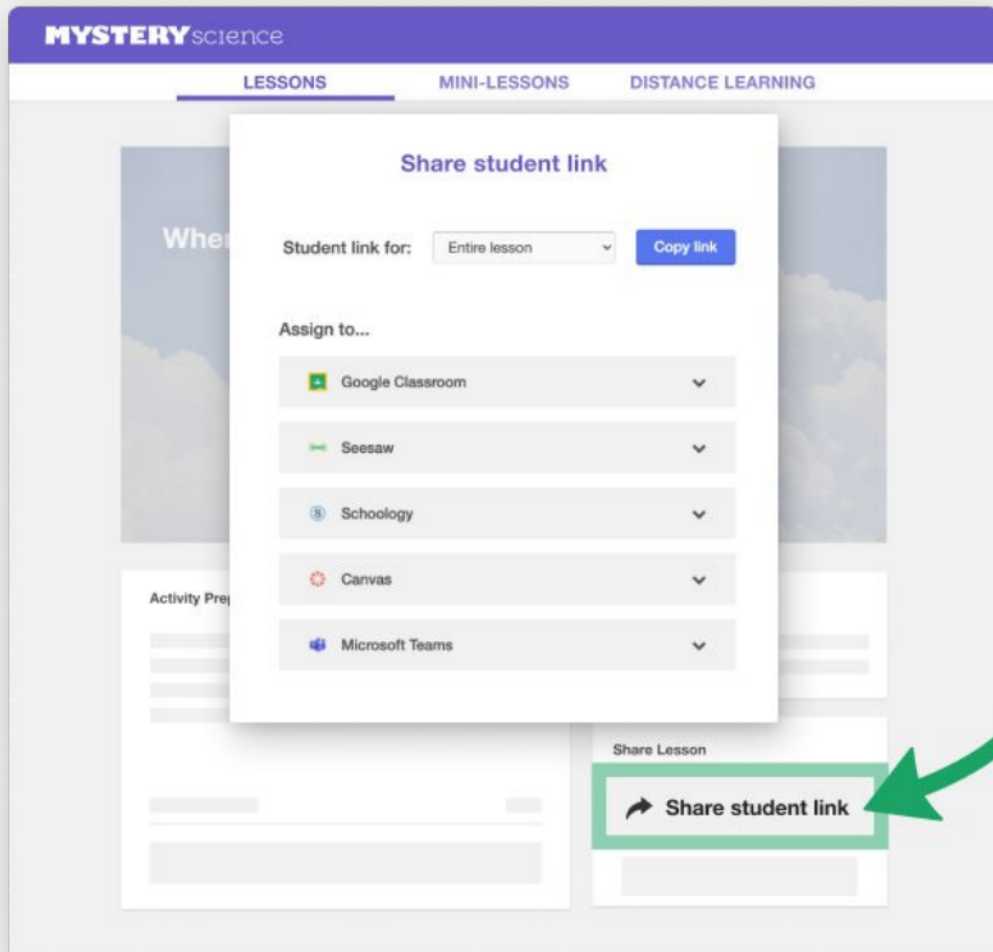


HOW TO ASSIGN

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!



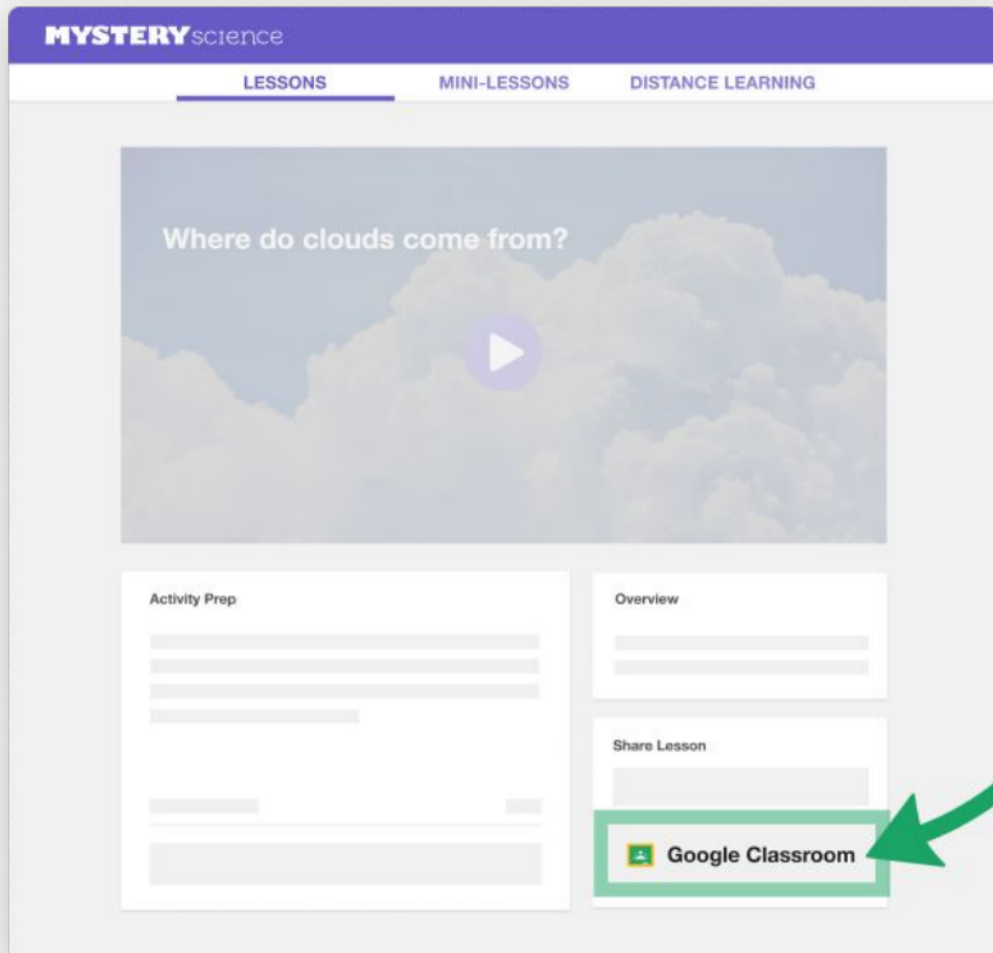
HOW TO ASSIGN

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.*



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.

The screenshot shows the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top is a purple header with the logo and three navigation tabs: LESSONS, MINI-LESSONS, and DISTANCE LEARNING. Below the header is a large video player with a play button and the title 'Where do clouds come from?'. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column has a section titled 'Activity Prep' followed by a 'COVID-19 Adaptations' section highlighted with a green border. The right column contains sections for 'Overview', 'Share Lesson', and 'Extensions'. The 'COVID-19 Adaptations' section includes two toggle switches: 'Students can work solo' (checked) and 'Students need a printout' (unchecked). Below these are two sub-sections: 'Students at home' with a printer icon and the text 'Each student will need a copy of the Gas Trap printout.', and 'Students at school' with a schoolhouse icon and the text 'Note: You'll need to pour warm water into each student's cup.'

MYSTERYscience

LESSONS MINI-LESSONS DISTANCE LEARNING

Where do clouds come from?

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

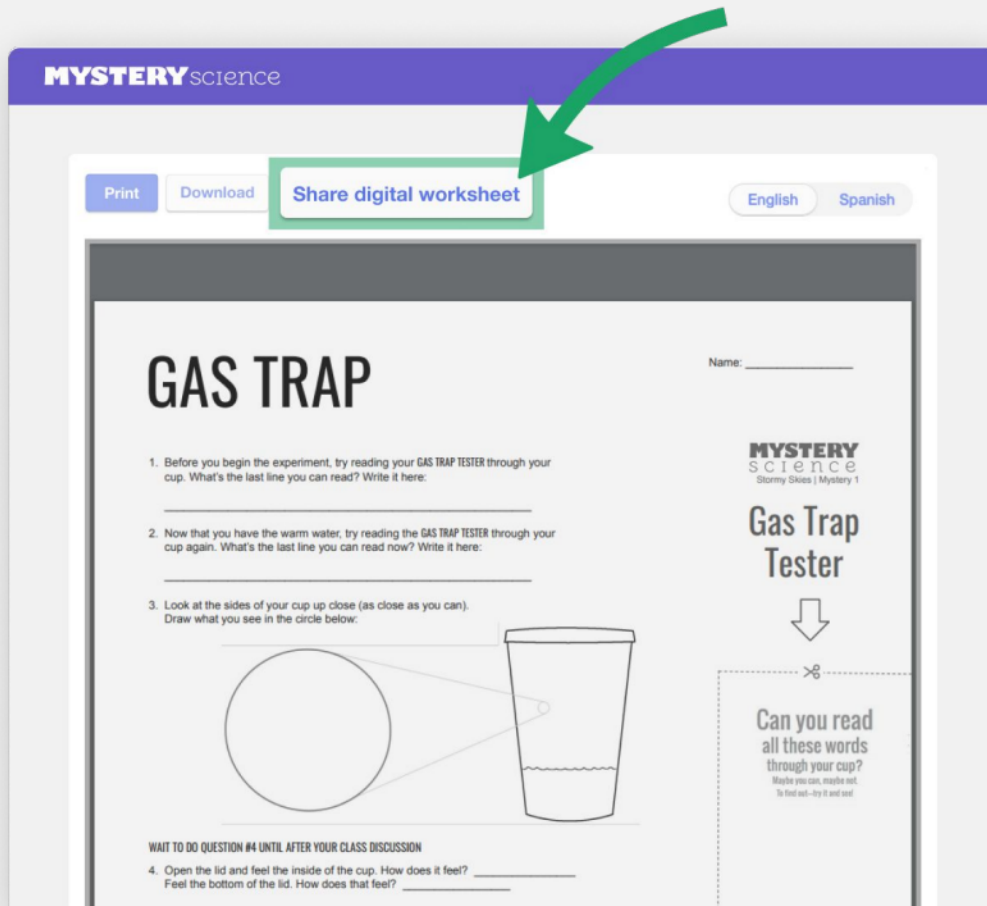
HOW TO ASSIGN

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.



The screenshot shows the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the logo. Below the header, there are three buttons: 'Print', 'Download', and 'Share digital worksheet'. The 'Share digital worksheet' button is highlighted with a green box, and a green arrow points to it from the top right. To the right of these buttons are two language selection buttons: 'English' and 'Spanish'. Below the buttons, the main content area displays a worksheet titled 'GAS TRAP'. The worksheet includes instructions for an experiment, a diagram of a cup with a lid, and a section titled 'Gas Trap Tester' with a downward arrow. The worksheet also contains a section for students to write their observations and a final question about the experiment.

MYSTERYscience

Print Download **Share digital worksheet** English Spanish

GAS TRAP

Name: _____

MYSTERYscience
Stormy Skies | Mystery 1

Gas Trap Tester

↓

Can you read all these words through your cup?
Maybe you can, maybe not.
So 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? _____

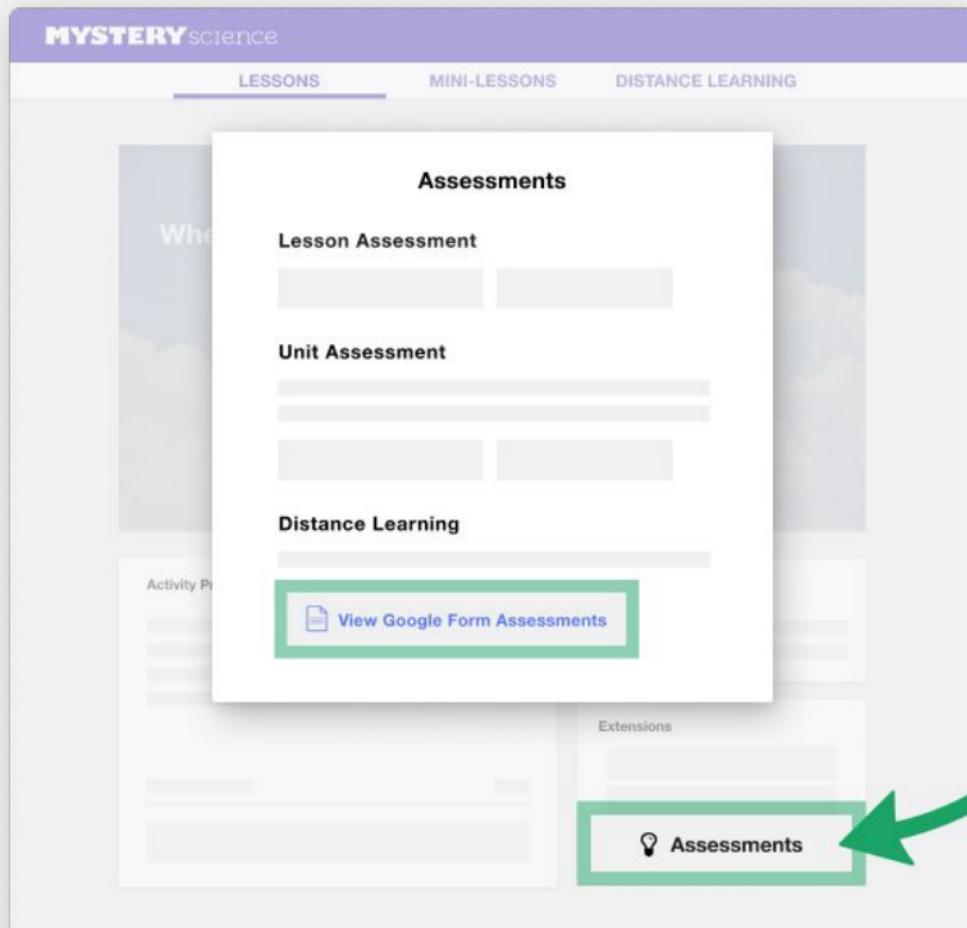
HOW TO ASSIGN

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 has a purple header with the "MYSTERYscience" logo, a search bar, and navigation links for "Lessons", "Mini-Lessons", and "Distance Learning". The main content area is titled "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". The "No-prep activities" section includes four cards: "Biodiversity" (Why are so many people scared of bugs?), "Sound & Animal Communication" (Why do owls say "hoo"?), "Ecosystems" (Why are flamingos pink?), and "Communication" (How were emojis created?). The "Mini-lessons" section includes four cards: "How does hand sanitizer", "How deep does the ocean", "Why do baby animals look", and "Can you make lava?". Each card features a small image and a grade level indicator (K-5).

Distance Learning Collection
Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning

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?
- Sound & Animal Communication**
Why do owls say "hoo"?
- Ecosystems**
Why are flamingos pink?
- Communication**
How were emojis created?

Mini-lessons 5 min

- How does hand sanitizer**
- How deep does the ocean**
- Why do baby animals look**
- Can you make lava?**