

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

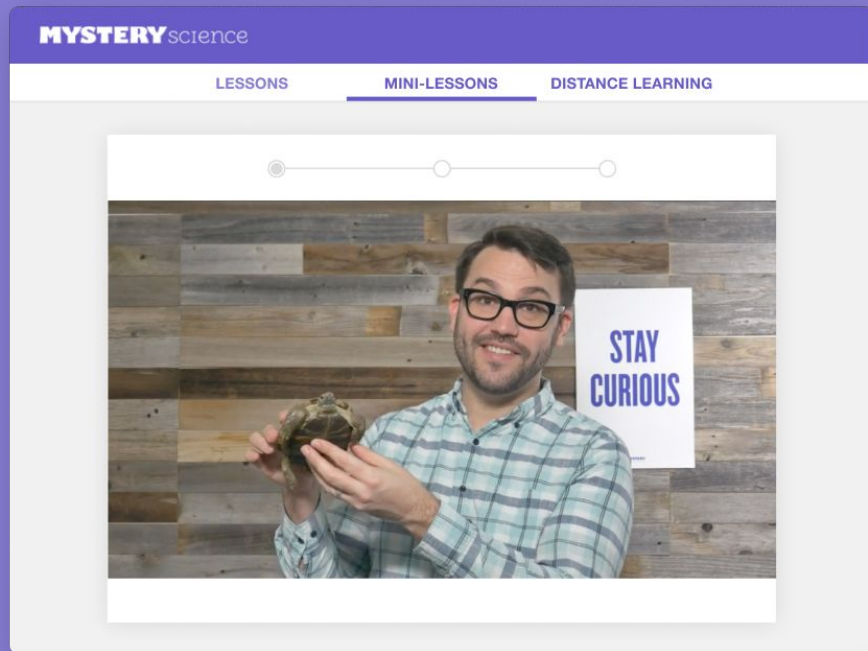
Share videos directly with students
—no student accounts necessary

Built-in narration by a master teacher

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

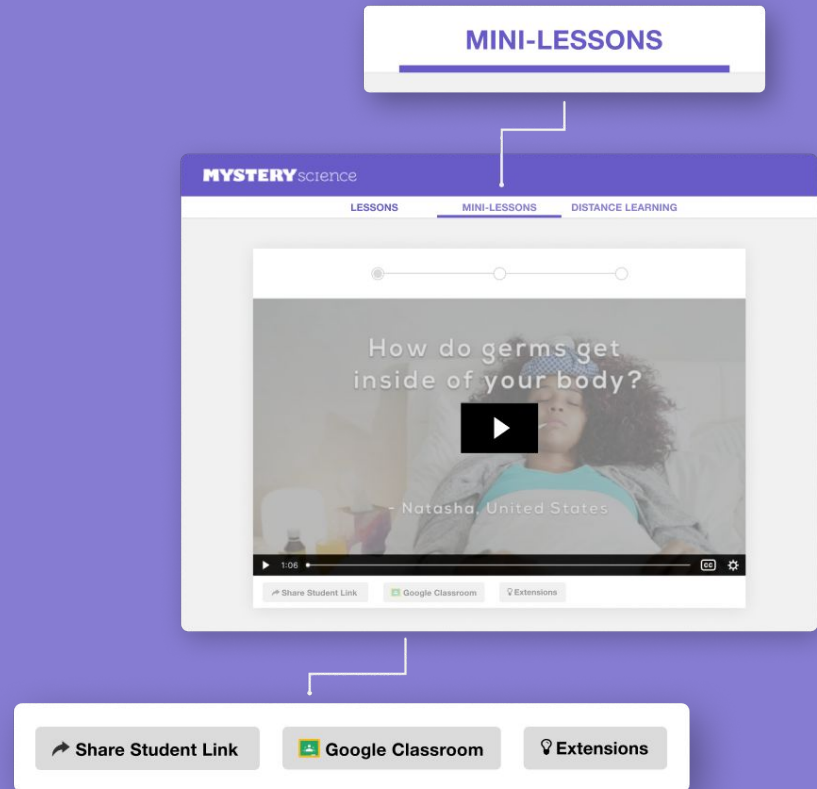
Assignable on Google Classroom

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

The image shows a screenshot of the MYSTERY science website. At the top, a white box labeled 'LESSONS' has a line pointing to the 'LESSONS' tab in the website's navigation bar. The website header includes 'MYSTERY science' and navigation options for 'LESSONS', 'MINI-LESSONS', and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. The main content area features a video player with a play button and the title 'Why do frogs say "ribbit?"'. Below the video, there are sections for 'Activity Prep', 'Overview', and 'Share Lesson'. To the right of the main content, a 'Share Lesson' menu is open, showing options: '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 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 page title is "Distance Learning Collection" with the subtitle "Our favorite lessons for remote and socially-distanced learning".

The main content area is divided into two sections:

- No-prep activities**: Activities for in-class or at-home, solo or with others. No print-outs needed! This section contains four activity 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: Flamingos in water)
 - Communication**: How were emojis created? (Image: A person surrounded by colorful emojis)
- Mini-lessons**: 5 min. This section contains four lesson cards:
 - K-5**: How does hand sanitizer (Image: Hands being washed with sanitizer)
 - K-5**: How deep does the ocean (Image: Underwater coral reef)
 - K-5**: Why do baby animals look (Image: A baby rabbit)
 - K-5**: Can you make lava? (Image: A person using a tool to create a lava-like structure)

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

| | Teaching in the classroom | Teaching online |
|--|--|--|
| <p>View this unit here.</p> <p>Lesson 1</p> <p>Ready to Teach</p> <p><i>Where can you find whales in the desert?</i></p> | <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 <i>Fossil Dig</i> template and the <i>Mystery Fossils</i> template (digital copies will not work).• Students will also need a printed or digital version of the <i>Fossil Dig Questions</i>. |
| <p>Lesson 2</p> <p>Ready to Teach</p> <p><i>How do we know what dinosaurs looked like?</i></p> | <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 <i>What Do These Animals Eat</i> printout (or assign the digital version). |
| <p>Lesson 3</p> <p>Substitute Activity</p> <p><i>Can you outrun a dinosaur?</i></p> | <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) |
| <p>Lesson 4</p> <p>Ready to Teach</p> <p><i>What kinds of animals might there be in the future?</i></p> | <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 <i>Designer Dogs</i> 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



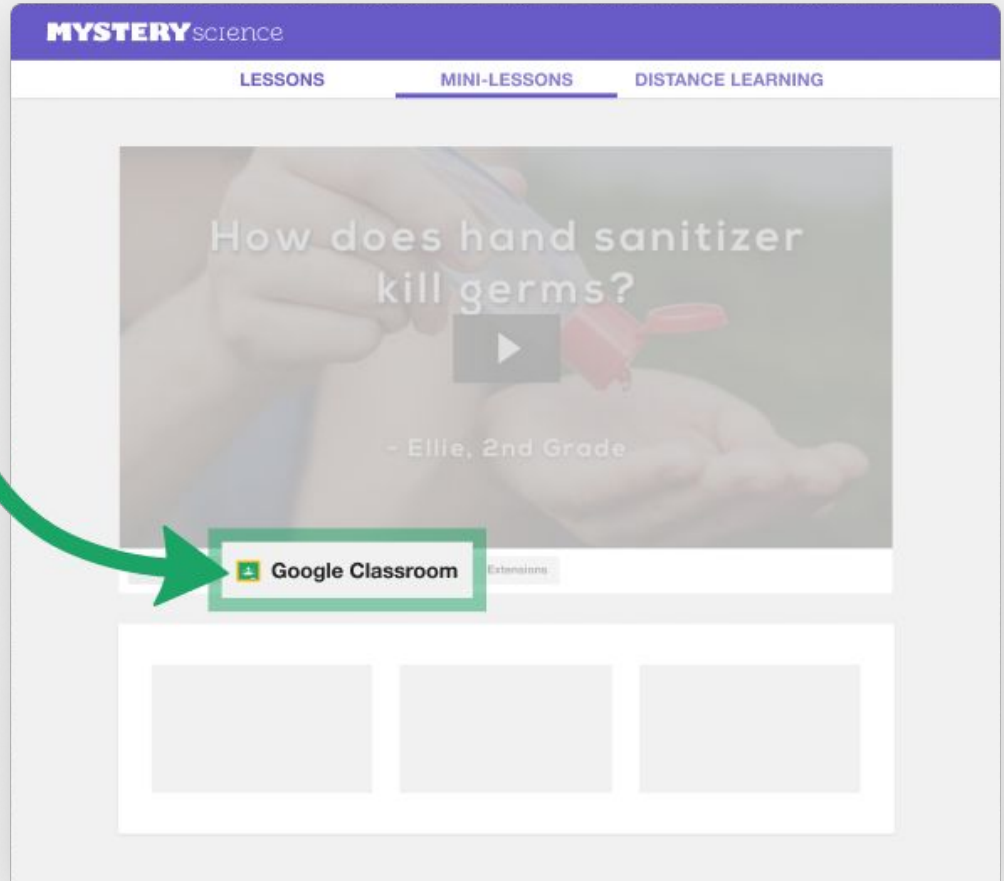
HOW TO ASSIGN

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', and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. The 'MINI-LESSONS' tab is currently selected. 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 'Google Classroom' button with a green arrow pointing to it from the left. To the right of the 'Google Classroom' button is a smaller 'Extensions' button. Below these 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.

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' (which is underlined), and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. Below the header is a large video player area with the text 'How does hand sanitizer kill germs?' and a play button. Below the video, it says '- Ellie, 2nd Grade'. At the bottom of the video player, there are three buttons: 'Student Link', 'Google Classroom', and 'Extensions'. The 'Extensions' button is highlighted with a green rectangular box, and a green arrow points from the left towards it. Below the buttons are three empty placeholder boxes.

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 screenshot displays the MYSTERYscience website interface. At the top, there is a purple header with the logo and navigation tabs for 'LESSONS', 'MINI-LESSONS', and 'DISTANCE LEARNING'. A modal window titled 'Share student link' is open in the center. It features a dropdown menu for 'Student link for:' with 'Entire lesson' selected, and a blue 'Copy link' button. Below this, an 'Assign to...' section lists several options: Google Classroom, Seesaw, Schoology, Canvas, and Microsoft Teams, each with a dropdown arrow. In the bottom right corner of the main page, a 'Share Lesson' button is visible, with a green box highlighting the 'Share student link' option and a green arrow pointing to it from the right.

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 play button and the text 'Where do clouds come from?'. Underneath the video player are two columns of content: 'Activity Prep' on the left and 'Overview' on the right. Below the 'Overview' section is a 'Share Lesson' section with a 'Google Classroom' button highlighted by a green rectangular border and a green arrow pointing to it from the right side of the page.

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, there 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 area with a play button and the text "Where do clouds come from?". Underneath the video player, there are two columns of content. The left column has an "Activity Prep" section followed by a "COVID-19 Adaptations" section, which is highlighted with a green border and a green arrow pointing to it from the text on the left. The right column has an "Overview" section, a "Share Lesson" section, and an "Extensions" section. The "COVID-19 Adaptations" section contains the following text: "✓ Students can work solo" and "📄 Students need a printout" at the top. Below that, there are two sub-sections: "🏠 Students at home" with the note "Each student will need a copy of the Gas Trap printout." and "🏫 Students at school" with the note "Note: You'll need to pour warm water into each student's cup."

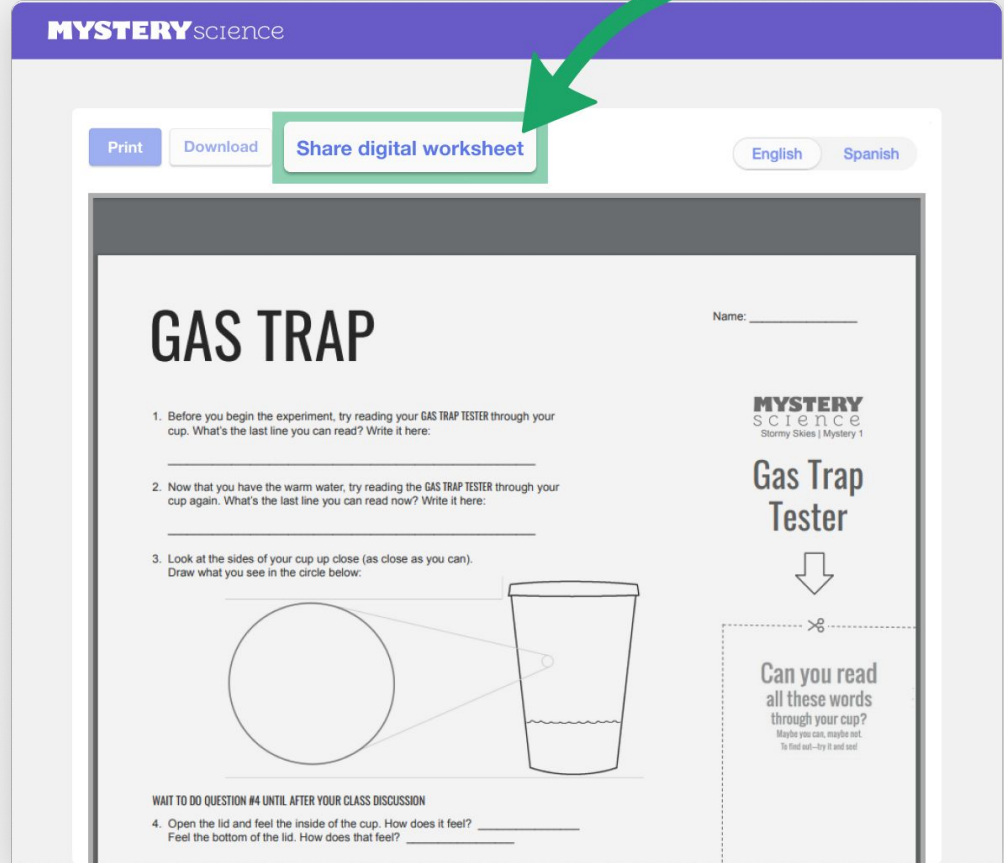
HOW TO ASSIGN

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 MYSTERY science 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 pointing to it. To the right of these buttons are language selection buttons for "English" and "Spanish".

The main content area is a worksheet titled "GAS TRAP". It includes a "Name: _____" field. The worksheet contains three numbered instructions:

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.

A diagram shows a cup with a circular inset showing a magnified view of the bottom of the cup. To the right of the cup, there is a "MYSTERY science" logo and the text "Gas Trap Tester" with a downward arrow. Below the arrow, there is a dashed box containing the text: "Can you read all these words through your cup? Maybe you can, maybe not. To find out—try it and see!"

At the bottom of the worksheet, there is a section titled "WAIT TO DO QUESTION #4 UNTIL AFTER YOUR CLASS DISCUSSION" followed by question 4: "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? _____"

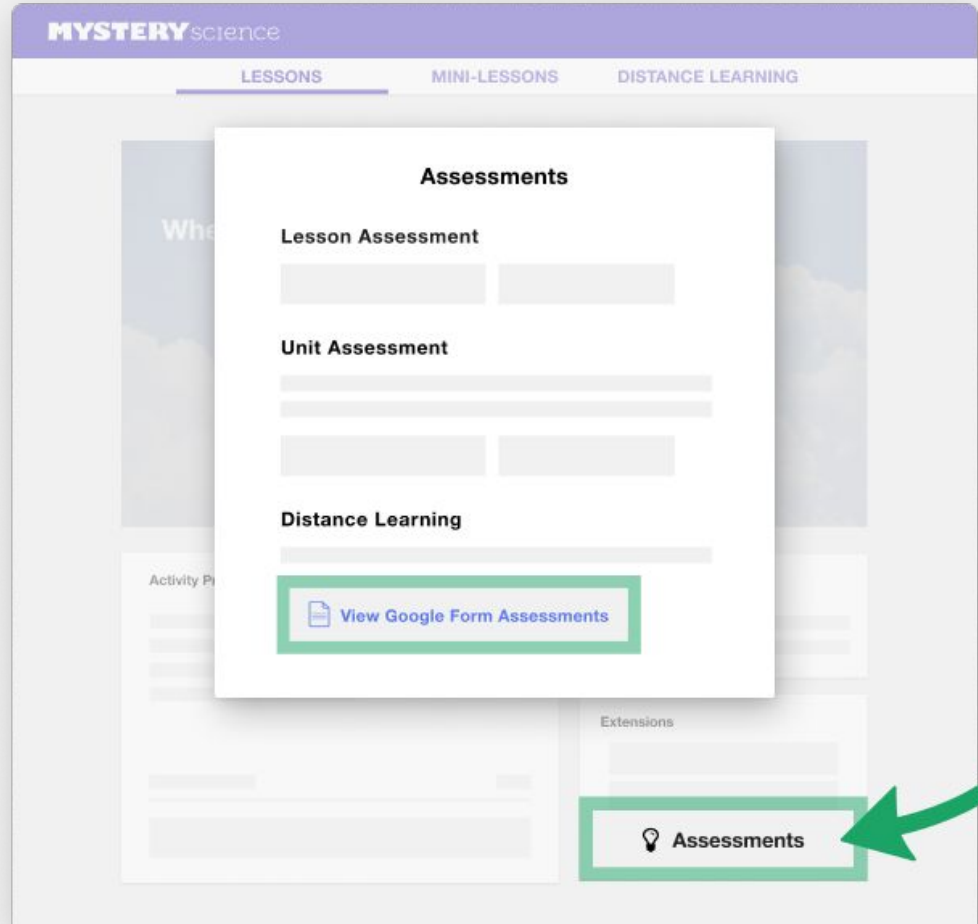
HOW TO ASSIGN

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?

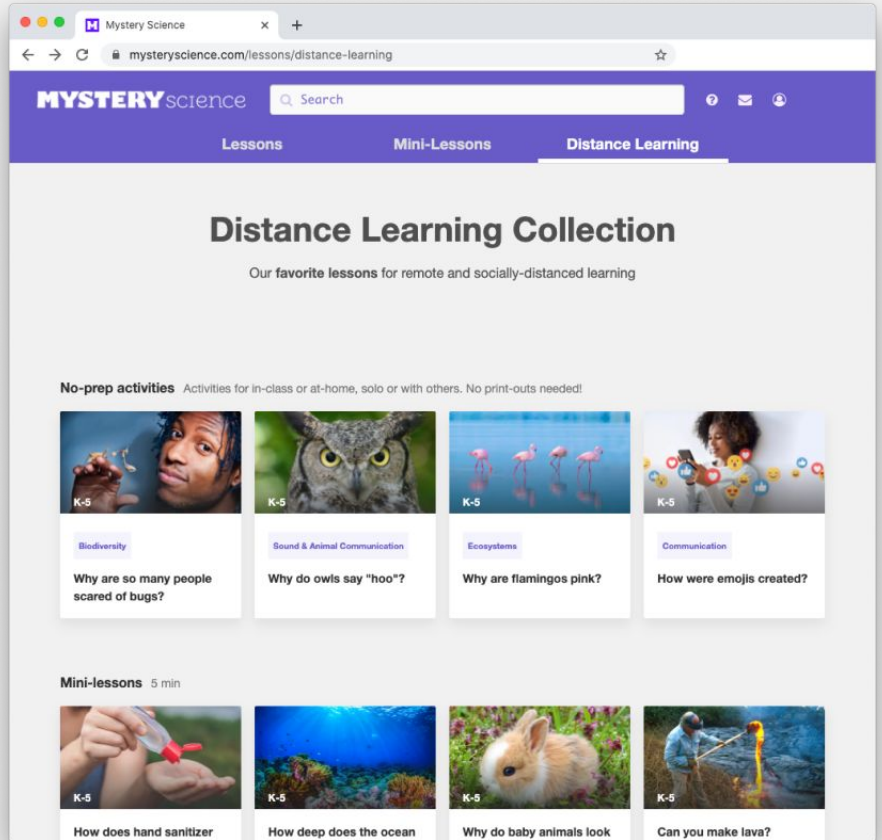
Browse [our curated list](#) of the easiest science lessons to do at home.

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". 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? (Image: A person holding a small insect)
- Sound & Animal Communication**: Why do owls say "hoo"? (Image: An owl)
- Ecosystems**: Why are flamingos pink? (Image: Flamingos in water)
- Communication**: How were emojis created? (Image: A person using a smartphone with various emojis floating around)

Mini-lessons 5 min

- Biodiversity**: How does hand sanitizer work? (Image: Hands being washed with sanitizer)
- Ecosystems**: How deep does the ocean? (Image: Underwater scene with coral)
- Ecosystems**: Why do baby animals look... (Image: A baby rabbit)
- Communication**: Can you make lava? (Image: A person using a tool to create a lava-like substance)