

Science Companion[®]

Introducing the Science Companion Online Pilot...

Science Companion is offering an innovative new online pilot program for school districts interested in inquiry science.

You can try Science Companion curriculum for free with online support from experts, a community of teachers exploring the same curriculum, and in pieces that are big enough to experience the curriculum and small enough that they won't take over your teaching time.

Why do a digital pilot? In this tough economic climate, we want to ensure that you can explore and evaluate next generation materials without worrying about your budget. And we'll be here with you every step of the way.

Here are some of the advantages!

- **It's Free**

Electronic materials are no cost, and we operate a lending library of kits and print student reference materials. You pay only if you don't return items to the lending library.

- **It's Accessible**

You can download the electronic teaching materials as soon as you enroll. You can use the hyperlinks in these integrated PDF's to jump directly to any of the components included in the pilot. And for these online pilots only, you can print Student Science Notebook pages at no cost.

- **It Has Relevant Content**

We're offering tastes of a variety of modules – with selected lessons from life science, physical science, and earth science modules. Your sales rep can help you choose the modules that will best meet your standards needs.

- **It's On a Scale That Won't Overwhelm You**

We have designed each pilot to be completed in 2 to 3 weeks if you are teaching science 2 or 3 times per week. There are several lessons in each pilot that best capture one big idea in the module that you can explore with your students.

- **It's a Chance to Explore**

With the current budget crunch, one of the ways school districts can save money is to purchase Science Companion teacher materials electronically. You can find out exactly how our hyperlinked PDF files work – content and activities connections are literally at your fingertips.

What's Offered in Each Pilot Module:

Solids, Liquids, and Gases: (Levels 1-3) Students describe the properties of everyday objects using their senses and measurement tools. They consider what materials various things are made of, and why. **This pilot is estimated take two, 45 minute class sessions.**

Motion: (Levels 1-3) Students practice describing an object's motion with words and drawings and learn to incorporate aspects of distance, time, speed, change of speed, and path into their descriptions. They use their bodies and balls to experience different paths of motion, investigate speed, and explore how forces cause starts, stops, and changes in speed or direction of motion. **This pilot is estimated to take eight, 45 minute class sessions.**

Habitats: (Levels 3-4) Students are introduced to the specialized bills of woodpeckers and owls. They then experiment with using tools to retrieve various model foods. They associate birds' bills and feet with the foods available in their habitats. **This pilot is estimated to take two, 45 minute class sessions.**

Our Solar System: (Levels 3-5) Students explore their ideas about reasons for daytime and nighttime. They consider the sun as Earth's source of light, and observe the effect sunlight has on Earth in terms of heat and shadows. They observe the sun several times throughout a day and discern how it seems to move across the sky. They create and use models that explain their observations of daytime and nighttime and the sun's apparent movement across the sky. **This pilot is estimated to take seven, 45 minute class sessions.**

Watery Earth: (Levels 4-5) Students learn how wise choices can help them conserve water and keep it clean. They take a "Pollution Walk" on school grounds, discuss ways to prevent pollutants from entering the water supply, and investigate ways to clean polluted water. They read, discuss, and compare real-life case studies related to conservation and pollution. **This pilot is estimated to take seven, 45 minute class sessions.**

Earth's Changing Surface: (Levels 4-6) Students look for evidence of change to the earth's surface in their local environment, and discuss how some changes happen quickly but most happen slowly. They examine and discuss photographs of various landforms and guess how they were formed. Then they examine how glaciers have shaped the land in the past and continue to do so today. **This pilot is estimated to take five, 45 minute class sessions.**

Energy: (Levels 4-6) Students discuss what they think energy is, where it is found, things it does, and how it is used. They create collages, play a card game to identify energy forms, and search for examples of each form on their school grounds. Students work in small groups and rotate through several energy stations. They operate and discuss a variety of "energized" toys to identify the type of energy transfers that make each toy run. **This pilot is estimated to take eight, 45 minute class sessions.**

Rainbows, Color, and Light: (PreK-K) Through experiments with prisms, mirrors, bubbles, water, sunlight, and flashlights, children bring rainbow effects into their classroom and onto the playground. They also mix colors to observe that colored light produces different results than mixing pigmented paints, dough, or water. **This pilot includes up to eight activities that will each take about one half hour for discussion and play during class time or at centers.**

Each pilot includes an introductory lesson to help students sharpen their awareness of scientific thinking and some also include optional science skill building activities.

Here's how it works

1. You can stop by the website anytime to try the sample lesson and see what modules offer pilot lessons. Just visit <http://science-companion.wikispaces.com/>
2. Then, contact your sales rep about how you can enroll!
Your rep will help you decide which pilot (or pilots) is best for you, and give you a password so you can get into the full site and download your integrated PDF lesson materials.
3. Belinda Basca, our Director of Pilot Programs, will be on hand to process your enrollment and make sure that your kit materials and Student Reference Books (if your module uses them) will come in about a week. These materials come from our Pilot Lending Library, and provided you return everything when you're done, won't cost you a dime to use. (And it's just \$40 if you prefer to keep the kit materials, \$160 if you decide to keep the Student Reference Books. Please read your Lending Agreement for more details.)
4. While you're waiting...
We recommend that you spend that week digging around on the wiki site a little bit – there are some great resources there to get you started.
 - Feel free to use our “Ask an Expert” service with any implementation, professional development, or content questions.
 - Introduce yourself in the discussion forum and meet other teachers who are also exploring Science Companion.
 - Experiment with adding your comments to one of the voice threads.
5. Once you've gotten all of your materials, you can start your pilot. Each pilot should take about 2 to 3 weeks to complete, provided that you're teaching science 2-3 times a week in your classroom. (So each should take about 6 to 9 sessions.) You'll have 2 months from enrollment before you need to return the shipped materials, so you don't need to jump into teaching immediately if you want to spend some more time getting online support.
6. Enjoy! Inquiry science learning is noisy and messy and absolutely fun. It can take some effort to feel confident with it if you're new to inquiry, but the rewards are extraordinary as you watch your students come alive with excitement about science. And we'll be on hand to support you however you might need it. Ask us lots of questions!
7. When you're done, just pack up your print and kit materials and send them back to us with the mailing sticker we've provided. And please let us know what you think.

Contact Us to Find Out How You Can Start Your Online Pilot!

pilot@sciencecompanion.com

888-352-0660

www.sciencecompanion.com