

Lesson 2 Alien language and looks

AGES 7–9

Objectives

- To make and read an alien message.
- To consider how an alien body may be formed.

Subject references

Science

- Consider nutrition needs and movement in other animals. (NC: KS2 Sc2 1a)

English

- Choose content to suit a particular purpose. (NC: KS2 En3 1a)
 - Inform and explain, focusing on the subject matter to convey it in sufficient detail for the reader. (NC: KS2 En3 9b)
- #### Art and design
- Make thoughtful observations about starting points. (NC: KS2 1b)

Resources and preparation

Each child will need a photocopy of page 78, pencils, pictures and books about animals.

Starter

Tell the children that you want them to imagine that they are aliens and are going to send a message to Earth. Distribute the photocopies of page 78 and show the children the alien alphabet at the top of the page. Ask the children to think of a message and use this alphabet to send the message. If the children want to include numbers in their message, encourage them to produce their own symbols for 0 to 10. Once the children have written their messages, ask them to pass them on to their friends for translating. If numbers have been used, let the children reflect on how difficult it is to work on translating something without access to the code.

What to do

- Now tell the children that, still imagining themselves as aliens, you want them to think about the body they would have. Tell them that animals on earth have a vast range of body forms. Let the children browse the pictures of just some different

eyes, mouths, limbs and breathing systems illustrated on page 78.

- Notice, for instance, that a caterpillar's jaws are arranged vertically, not horizontally like ours, and that starfish have arms with tubular feet on them. Remind the children of tadpoles having external gills, and point out that insects have holes in the sides of their body to let air inside, and that frogs absorb oxygen through their damp skins.
- Suggest to the children that they can use any of these features given here, look in books or use their own ideas to draw a body. Tell them that the body must have sense organs, a mouth, a way of moving and a way of breathing.
- Also ask the children to write a short report about what the alien is sensitive to, how it feeds and breathes and how it moves about. They might also want to give their alien a name.

Differentiation

- More confident learners could invent a life cycle for the alien and show how it changes as it grows. There could perhaps be stages in the life cycle like that of an insect or an amphibian.
- Less confident learners could base their

