

2nd Grade Mystery Science Resources

Lessons (45-90 min. w/ activity)	Overview	Documents/ Supplies	Extras
<u>Could you build a house out of paper?</u>	In this Mystery, students examine how large structures like houses are built from smaller pieces. In the activity, Paper Towers, they design their own structures using an unconventional building material: paper! Students build towers using 3" x 5" index cards and paper clips. First, they build tall towers, then they are challenged to build towers strong enough to support a hardcover book.	<u>Paper Towers</u> printout Paper Clips Paper Rulers Books	<u>Paper Engineering: Fold Your Own Hat</u>
<u>How many different kinds of animals are there?</u>	In this Mystery, students examine how scientists organize animals into groups based on their characteristics. In the activity, Animals Sorting Game, students study animal traits and use these traits to sort animal cards into mammals, birds, reptiles, and invertebrates. Students are then challenged to make decisions about animals that don't fall neatly into any of those categories.	<u>Animal Cards</u> printout <u>Challenge Cards</u> printout Scissors	<u>Online Animal Sorting Game</u>
<u>Why do frogs say "ribbit"?</u>	This Mystery is a case study in biodiversity using the frogs of North America. In the activity, Who's Calling?, students learn to identify frogs by their unique calls and investigate which of two locations has a greater variety of frogs. After listening to recordings of frog calls, students create words that will remind them of the sounds, and then use those words to identify frog sounds in different environments.	<u>Who's calling and types of frogs</u> printout	<u>Frog Coloring Pages</u>
<u>Why is there sand at the beach?</u>	In this Mystery, students investigate the effects of rocks tumbling in a river. Based on their observations, they construct an explanation for why there is sand at a beach. In the activity, Rocking the River, students pretend to be a river and tear up pieces of construction paper to model what happens to rocks as they travel along the river.	<u>Draw the River Rocks</u> printout <u>River (5 sheets)</u> printout Colored Paper	<u>Everybody Needs a Rock</u> , book read aloud
<u>If you floated down a river, where would you end up?</u>	In this Mystery, students develop a model of the earth's surface and use it to discover an important principle about how rivers work. In the activity, Paper Mountains, students take turns using a spray bottle to make rain fall on paper models of mountains to observe patterns of how water and rivers flow.	<u>"This is _____'s land"</u> printout Paper Spray bottle (water) Marker	<u>Digital maps</u> of rivers

Mini Lessons (15-30 minutes, all digital)

[Are unicorns real?](#)

[How is glass made?](#)

[Why is the ocean salty?](#)

[How are toys invented?](#)

[How do germs get inside your body?](#)

[How does hand sanitizer kill germs?](#)