

Women in Science

1786 I found it [sc. a comet] with a magnifier of about 30, with a field of about 1½ degree.

2014 The fact that, as a tiny embryo, you had a yolk sac, even a small, un-yolky one, reveals something about your ancestry and the links between embryology and evolution.

1931 It is recommended that the use of the term curie can be extended to include the equilibrium quantity of any decay product of radium.

focus

bony fish

un-yolk, n.

1861 [This] will enable the finger to be laid at once on the plague spots of the parish.

1859 True nursing ignores infection, except to prevent it.

pterodactyl

1829 I announced the new pterodactyl of Lyme.

1899 It would also be difficult to conceive of the radiferous salts of barium being volatile.



Caroline Herschel
(1750-1848)



Florence Nightingale
(1820-1910)

radium

magnifier

1861 A dirty carpet...infects the [sick] room.

2014 Most bony fish, from gobies to sturgeon, possess a swim bladder.

1835 Miller talked to him of the's performances in sky-sweeping and comet-hunting.



Marie Curie
(1867-1934)



Prof. Alice Roberts
(Born 1973)

laboratory

comet

plague



Mary Anning
(1799-1847)

nursing, n.

1860 Feverishness is generally supposed to be a symptom of fever—in nine cases out of ten it is a symptom of bedding.

1786 The object in the center is like a star out of focus...and I suspect it to be a comet.

infection, n.

SUBJECT: **Cross-curricula**

LEVEL/YEAR GROUP: **YR6**

LENGTH OF SESSION: **60 minutes**

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This resource is designed to be a fun introduction to using *OED* features, and to start exciting conversations about women in science. Students will complete tasks in groups and will contribute in class discussions beneficial to their studies in science, English, and history, with the option of including homework/extension work.

ICE BREAKER/OPENING QUESTION

TIME: **5 minutes**

Ask the class to name as many scientists as they can. See how many of these are male, and how many are female. Ask specifically if they know any female scientists.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

TIME: **35-45 minutes**

Task: in small groups, try to match the names and pictures of the scientists with the *OED* entries they are cited in and/or the words they are associated with (without looking online). Then as a class, use the *OED*'s advanced search function on the smart board to check if they were right.

Optional: Each group to research further information about their chosen scientist to present to the rest of the class. Quotations from the *OED*, as well as information from other sources, can be used to make a poster to be displayed in class.

DISCUSSION

TIME: **5-10 minutes**

Who are these scientists? What have they achieved? Florence Nightingale has more than 100 citations, so a session on her alone could be done, too.

EXTENSION/HOME TASK

Write a few sentences about a famous person. Which *OED* entries could they be cited in, and which books, films, songs, etc. could their quotes be taken from?

Curriculum objectives/topics for this resource:

- **Science:** Evolution and inheritance (how living things have changed over time, fossils, dinosaurs, adaptation and environment)
- **History:** A local history study
- **English:** Understand the meaning of new words
- **English:** Use dictionaries to check spelling and meaning of words
- **English:** Use a thesaurus