



### **S is for Scientists' Corner**

Scientific explorations

The world around us has been a source of inspiration for people around the globe and throughout time. People have always been fascinated with the way things work. You can follow in their footsteps and carry out some investigations to think more about what happens in the world around you and beyond...

#### **Natural History**

Study of the natural world and how it works, used to be called Natural Philosophy. This mostly involved just thinking about the world. When people started experimenting to understand the world better, it was renamed Natural Science. We have both natural philosophers and natural scientists buried and remembered in Westminster Abbey. People like [Margaret Cavendish](#), [Alfred Russel Wallace](#), [Joseph Hooker](#), [Charles Lyell](#) and famously [Charles Darwin](#).

You can be a natural scientist too. Explore the natural world around you. Look at trees, plants and animals. You could make a nature journal to record your findings. You might like to:

- Draw a picture of your subject.
- Do you know its name? Perhaps you can look it up in a book or on the internet.
- Describe what it looks like. Try to use lots of details.
- Describe where it lives, this is called their habitat.
- Write down what makes their habitat just right for them.

How many subjects will your nature journal include?

#### **Space exploration**

Lots of important physicists are buried or remembered in Westminster Abbey. [Stephen Hawking](#) was buried here in 2018 between scientists famous for looking into space and exploring the stars: [Sir Isaac Newton](#) and [William Herschel](#). William Herschel discovered Uranus with his sister Caroline who became famous throughout Europe as 'The Comet Huntress'. Another comet hunter, [Edmond Halley](#), is remembered in the Cloisters.

Make your own comet:

*You will need:*

- 5 pieces of ribbon, strips of cloth or paper, in 3 colours –2 colours long, 1 colour shorter.
  - Tin foil
  - A stick
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*What to do:*

- Tie your ribbons to the top of the stick.
- Scrunch tin foil into a ball onto the top of the stick covering the knots.

*What's happening?*

We can see comets from Earth shooting through the sky, as they get close to the sun they warm up and release gases. The tin foil on your comet is the *nucleus* made of ice and rock. Next, represented by the shorter ribbon is the *coma*, which is the glowing part. The long ribbons on your comet are two tails – one made of gas and one of dust.

*Take it further...*

Maybe you can be allowed to stay up until it is dark and watch the skies on a clear night. You may get lucky and see a comet – we also call these shooting stars!



“Did you know that you can find a lion in the stars?” said Livingstone the lion, “Find the constellation Leo and I’ll give you a high five!”

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