

SCIENCE TEACHING TIPS FROM YOUR FAVORITE SMALL SCREEN SCIENTISTS

TV makes teaching science look simple. You can zoom through the desert, talk to animals, and save the day all in half an hour. Although leading a science lesson isn't quite like an episode of your favorite 90s or 00s TV show, you can still learn a thing or two from the real and fictional scientists of the small screen.



TRY THESE K-5 SCIENCE TEACHING TIPS AND TRICKS INSPIRED BY YOUR FAVORITE TV SCIENTISTS!



GET HANDS ON LIKE BILL NYE THE SCIENCE GUY

Bill Nye is all about experiencing science first hand. On his show, Bill Nye the Science Guy, he features experiments conducted by himself as well as his kid apprentices. Like Bill Nye, demonstrate science to your students and provide them the opportunity to engage in hands-on projects and experiments. Sure they can get a little messy, but don't be afraid! Set up rules and expectations and model beforehand so students know what to do.

EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS LIKE THE WILD THORNBERRYS

In the animated series The Wild Thornberrys, Eliza and her family travel from place to place to learn all about the great outdoors. You can't drive through the African Sahara in an RV, but you can teach science outside the four walls of your classroom. Explore your school grounds and delve into science topics, for example head over to the school garden to teach about plant life. Even a trip to the playground can turn into a lesson on simple machines or kinetic energy.



LET KIDS SOLVE THE PROBLEM LIKE JIMMY NEUTRON

Kids can be scientists too! Just take a look at The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron. Sure he's a fictional fifth grade boy genius, but your students should channel their inner scientist. Allow time for students to inquire, explore, and discover on their own. When students think through a scientific solution independently, they build their problem solving skills. Facilitate learning through follow-up questions and comments, but don't give students the answer.







TEAM UP LIKE PINKY AND THE BRAIN

Science should be a collaborative effort and no one knows that better than the dynamic duo of Pinky and the Brain. Although the cartoon critters fail to take over the world, they still diligently work together to plot their science schemes.

Encourage students to partner up and share hypotheses and observations, conduct science experiments, and compare experimental findings. Not only will students learn more about the world around them, but they will also learn how to better communicate with their classmates.

SET UP A SCIENCE SPACE LIKE DEXTER'S LABORATORY

Kid scientist Dexter of Dexter's Lab has his own private laboratory lair, equipped with test tubes and laser beams. Your classroom may not have all the science supplies to build an animal swapping remote like Dexter, but you can stock up on materials to create a great science space.

Magnifying lenses, rulers, pipettes, magnets, blocks, and natural materials, like rocks or leaves, are all simple science tools to set up your class lab. Consider other tools that are easily found at home or the classroom, like paper towel rolls or yarn, that can be used to complete many science activities on Science A-Z. All these tools can be placed in bins to make easy-to-access science centers.

