



Women in chemistry

Education in Chemistry

Sustainability in chemistry 2021

Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls

rsc.li/3ixU4gX

Show your learners the difference that science can make and provide them with role models who are leading chemists in their fields.

Teaching notes

This activity accompanies the EiC article [Equality, education and science](#), which is part of the [Sustainability in chemistry](#) collection and covers UN sustainable development goals 4, 5 and 10. The resource focuses on Goal 5: achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls, but can be tied to Goal 4: inclusive quality education and Goal 10: reduced inequalities.

Linking a human face to science and telling the stories of what chemists have achieved provides learners with fantastic role models and can really bring home the difference that science can make. In this activity, learners will research a female chemist or scientist and present their findings either as a poster or Wikipedia entry (find templates on page two and three respectively). They can then plan a social media or blog post to accompany their scientist's profile, using the tips on page four to make their content engaging.

The [twelve women in chemistry](#) poster is a good place to start. You can print out the poster, make it in to 12 cards and give each group one chemist to research. Another poster highlighting [100 women in chemistry](#) provides profiles of chemists working here and now. And the [L'Oréal-UNESCO for women in science programme](#) offers more information about contemporary women scientists.

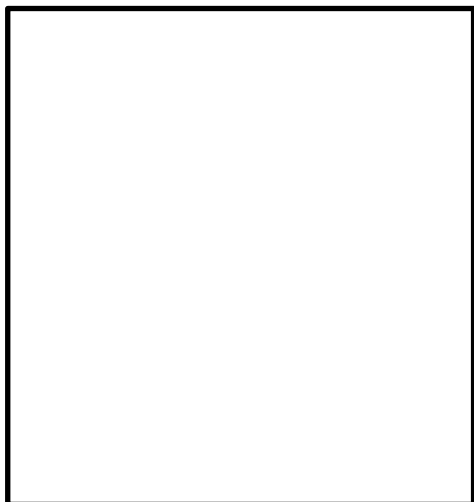
The profiles could be used as part of a display and/or put into schemes of learning so they can be referred to when a related topic is taught.

Careers

Link this activity to careers and show your learners the different opportunities available to them.

Use our [Future in chemistry](#) resources, try the [interactive careers game](#) and watch [Challenging opinions](#) to connect to the aims of inclusivity and equality highlighted by Goals 4, 5 and 10.

Women in chemistry poster



Name

Job or role

Nationality

Chemistry topic of interest

Insert a picture of the chemist into the box above

Write a short summary about what your chemist has achieved and/or their current work.

Women in chemistry: Wikipedia page

First name and surname

Full name in bold and summarise what they do.

Contents

1. Education
2. Research and career
 - 2.1 Research
 - 2.2 Awards and honours
3. References

Education

Where were they educated, what qualifications?

Research and career

Summary of their research interests.

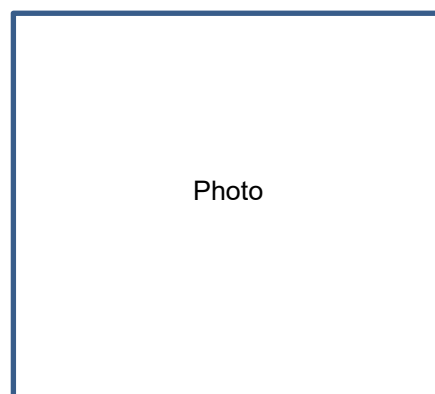
Awards and honours.

Reference

Can you find one reference for a paper that they have published.

Put their name into google scholar.

Name



Born

Education

Alma Mater (where did they go to university?)

Known for

Awards

Fields (what do they research?)

Institutions (where are they studying or conducting research now?)

Website (do they have their own website? If not, they may have a page on their university department website, science institution or hospital.)

Women in chemistry: social media posts

Twitter post for your chosen scientist

Create a tweet to help drive people to view the profile you have created. Follow the tips below and consider which hashtags you would use, eg #womenscientists #womenchemists.

A good tweet is:

- Front loaded: put the most important words at the start of the tweet to catch a follower's eye.
- Scannable: write simply and concisely. You want followers to 'get' it straight away.
- Specific: make your content valuable and useful. Make it matter to your followers.
- Active: use strong verbs and skip the adjectives and adverbs.
- Focused: limit yourself to one idea per tweet. The rest can go in a blog post.
- Compelling: give followers a reason to click through to learn more.
- Short: you may have 280 characters, but you don't have to use them all!
- Your voice: your tweets should sound like you. Re-read to check how they sound.

Adapted from [How to write the perfect tweet.](#)

Instagram post for your chosen scientist

Select the image for your Instagram post carefully. What image best represents the work or field that your selected scientist is working in? What will capture the attention of scrollers?

How to write a good Instagram caption:

- Make the most of the first sentence.
- Include a call to action or ask a question.
- Write like a human (not a robot).
- Use storytelling.
- Use emojis and have fun with them.
- Keep it concise and engaging.

Adapted from [How to write Instagram captions.](#)

Blog post for your chosen scientist

Blogs are a great way to show your interest in a topic, or in this case, an inspirational scientist. The profile you created can help you create the blog, but this is your chance to add more detail. You could include information that's interesting to you and/or that may not fit neatly into the profile categories.

How to write a blog post:

- Step 1: Plan your post: create an outline, check you have the information from your research and check your facts.
- Step 2: Craft a headline that is both informative and attention grabbing.
- Step 3: Write your post, either writing a draft in a single session or gradually work on parts of it.
- Step 4: Use images to enhance your post. Images can improve the flow, explain complex topics, emphasise key points and add humour. Think about their purpose and make sure they achieve it.
- Step 5: Edit your blog post. Check for repetition, read your post aloud to check its flow. Have someone else read it and provide feedback. Keep sentences and paragraphs short, don't be a perfectionist and don't be afraid to cut out text or adapt your writing last minute.

Adapted from [How to write an awesome blog post.](#)