

Lots of explaining to do

Far away in a distant galaxy, there was a distant planet where two friends lived together.



The two friends often set off in their spacecraft to visit the planet Earth.



Planet Earth was very interesting!

Here's Pod. He's an alien and he lives on the distant planet with his little robot friend - Dusty.



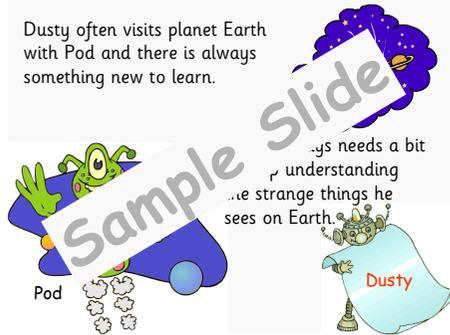
Pod

Pod likes learning new things.



Dusty

Dusty often visits planet Earth with Pod and there is always something new to learn.



Pod

Dusty

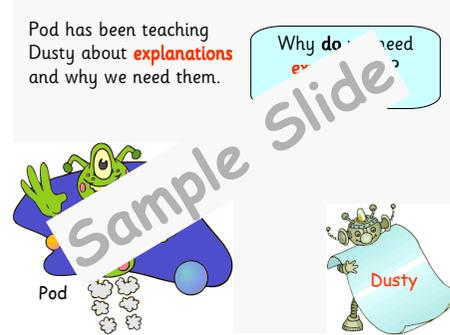
Pod has been to Earth many times before and knows lots of things about the strange planet.



Pod

Dusty

Pod has been teaching Dusty about **explanations** and why we need them.

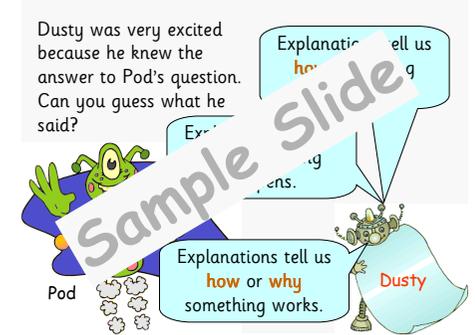


Pod

Dusty

Why do we need explanations?

Dusty was very excited because he knew the answer to Pod's question. Can you guess what he said?



Pod

Dusty

Explanations tell us how or why something happens.

Explanations tell us how or why something works.

Dusty decided that he liked **explanations** because they helped him to understand how things work. Understanding **how things work** or **why things happen** was very important.



explanations

One day Pod decided to teach Dusty **how to write an explanation** for his robot friends at home.

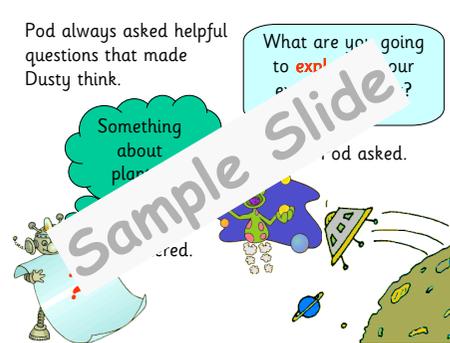


How should I start?

First of all, choose something to write about. You can choose anything you like.

Pod suggested.

Pod always asked helpful questions that made Dusty think.

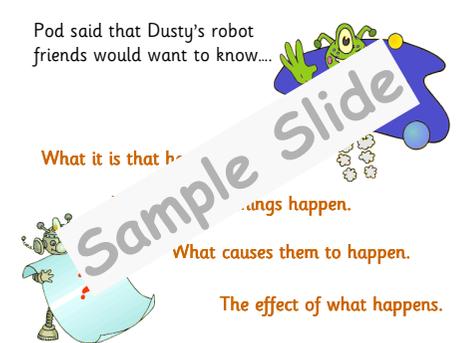


Something about plants?

What are you going to explain?

Pod asked.

Pod said that Dusty's robot friends would want to know...



What is it that happens?

Things happen.

What causes them to happen.

The effect of what happens.

Dusty thought carefully. What could he write his explanation about?



Why?

You need to start with a title - a **how** or **why** question.

Pod suggested.

Dusty knew quite a lot about **how sunflowers grow** and **why leaves change colour** so he decided to write some explanations about **how sunflowers grow**.



You need a good title so your friends know what you are writing about.

Pod suggested.

After a bit more thinking, Dusty had his first title

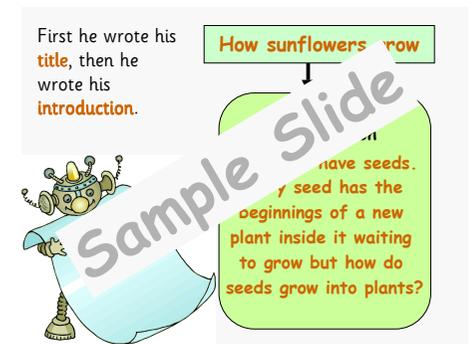


How sunflowers grow by Dusty.

Now you need to write an introduction.

Pod suggested.

First he wrote his title, then he wrote his introduction.



How sunflowers grow

How sunflowers grow. Sunflowers have seeds. Each seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it waiting to grow but how do seeds grow into plants?

He wasn't quite sure what to do next but then he remembered a little rhyme that Pod had taught him.....

How sunflowers grow

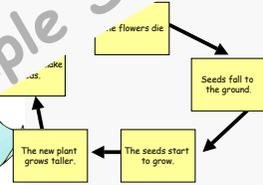
Introduction
All plants have seeds. Every seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it waiting to grow. How do seeds grow?



If you can't explain, write it in a **flow chart** then it's clear again.

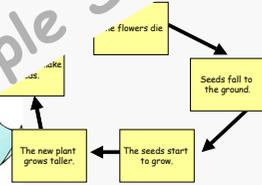
He started his **flow chart** and realised that it had to show the **lifecycle** of a sunflower

Introduction
All plants have seeds. Every seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it waiting to grow. How do seeds grow?



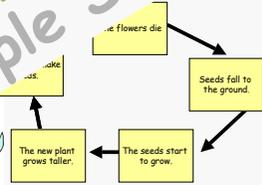
Now he'd worked out what he needed to do could start writing.

Introduction
All plants have seeds. Every seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it waiting to grow. How do seeds grow?



If he was really clever he could include **pictures and captions** and **labels** to illustrate what he was explaining.

Introduction
All plants have seeds. Every seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it waiting to grow. How do seeds grow?



What do you think his writing would say when he finished it?

Introduction
All plants have seeds. Every seed has the beginnings of a new plant inside it waiting to grow. How do seeds grow?

