

# Typical Comments About Dr Mark's Teachers' Resources – Books, CDROMs & DVDs

## Typical Comments About Dr Mark's Resources Generally:

*"Excellent resources"*

*"Superb, fully detailed"*

*"Look great and brilliantly laid out. Great to have CDROM too. Thanks!!"*

*"Great – will share with colleagues to use in class"*

*"Very well presented and well done"*

*"Very good activities"*

*"Enables me to put ideas into practice without too much effort"*

*"Well set out and easily copiable"*

*"Looking forward to using it in the classroom"*

*"...a good demonstration how simple ideas can be expanded to incorporate more complex thinking."*

*"The take-away copiable materials and notes were much appreciated."*

*"I love the resource. My students go crazy over them so thanks heaps. So thanks again."*

*"It really is great to find someone who is passionate about how much fun science is for kids (both small and grown up!!!). I have ordered one book to use with my children and another for the school...By the way they are fantastic!!"*

### **More Specific Comments About Dr Mark's DVD Sets:**

*An invaluable set of resources for any Science teacher. These DVD's are packed full of ideas, information and a few laughs along the way! I especially like the experiments for KS3 and my popular Science Club. Everything is well-explained in a very entertaining and exciting way. All the experiments are relevant to the National Curriculum and these DVDs give a wealth of ideas of 'things to do'. This would be especially useful for NQT's or teachers outside their specialism. The Science behind the experiments is explained in an interesting and very understandable manner. I also like the interactivity of it - the steps of the various stages of the experiments can be used in different ways and 'muddled up' to enable pupils to plan the experiment for themselves after they've seen the end result for example. Overall a great resource - useful in every Science Department.*

- Yvonne Niescier, Sacred Heart Catholic College, Liverpool

*If you have any money left in your science budget, buy this! Dr Mark is a one-man Science super-resource. This new DVD set is excellent for sharing with the children – simple experiments with clear, concise explanations of sometimes complex scientific principles. You can really pull on as much complexity as you need to, to work across a huge age range. This is a well thought-out resource, which gives you the opportunity to pause on the list of materials you will need. I also liked the opportunity one has to pause before the 'what happened' section, so that the children could either conduct the experiment themselves or discuss predictions prior to 'finding out'. The 'variables' section allows greater discussion and exploration, encouraging children to reflect on their work and develop critical thinking skills.*

- Jacqui Freeman, Cumnor House School, West Sussex

*I am so grateful to you for producing these DVDs. As a NQT not particularly well versed in Science, these have become my Bible! I watch them when I am ironing, weight training and cooking. My own children have begged to do the experiments, not realising that actually this is not fun - this is a serious science experiment - difficult to imagine from watching the DVDs and they way you present them. I love the way that it is so clearly organised; down to on screen prompts to pause whilst you note down ingredients. Even a rookie Science teacher such a myself can appear to be the next Dr. Brian Cox!!! The ultimate accreditation that the books, DVDs and CDROMs have worked their magic is that students have told me how much they look forward to my Science lessons. When told that they would be missing a day's lessons to go on a trip, one class exclaimed "Oh no we'll miss Mrs. Coleman's Science lessons!". I was so proud when my colleague told me that I could burst! If these DVDs and books had been around when I was studying Science at primary school I think I would be in NASA by now!!! Thank you so much for giving teachers and parents a resource that is so informative, comprehensive, clear and above all Fun with a capital F! It has saved me hours of research and lesson planning. Again, many thanks,*

- Aileen Coleman, NQT

*I like the 'powerful' simplicity of this DVD. In other words, the experiments are 'within reach' while having the WOW factor which the learners really enjoy. My eyes were glued to the screen! Your explanations are also quite calm and not too over excitable, so care (health and safety) is suggested in your tone. My colleague commented on how much her sons would love it, because it answers a lot of questions they tend to ask about the world around them.....It is a wonderful school resource because so many teachers are unsure about the science they impart and would like to make the learning fun for the kids. This DVD set does that. I am enthusiastic about it and would get it for our school tomorrow!.....We liked the different stages of the sequences.....The instructions are clear and the explanations ensure that the experiments are done safely.....The pause for Thinking Time and the questions for follow-up activities are supportive for teachers who are not sure about moving on the science topics in an exploratory way.....I would definitely use this in the classroom to support our science topics, pausing at each section - in addition to the Thinking/Discussion slot - to make sure the pupils make the links with our work, understand the instructions and can identify the materials before they use them. In the primary school, I can see this being planned around a whole lesson.....I could also see teachers using the DVDs as a lesson planner, where they take over the instructor's role - having practised with the DVDs. So, instead of always using the DVDs in class, they might direct the lesson, using the script and ideas from the DVDs.... Well done, Mark!*

- Donna Farrow-Prince, Downsell Primary School

## **From A 'Home Educator':**

*Thank you so much for giving my family this wonderful opportunity! We have so enjoyed using them.*

*We started off by having an afternoon in front of the TV! We enjoyed watching the experiments very much and found them really engaging and informative. We liked the fact that each experiment was broken down so that we knew what was needed, what you were going to do and why. My son particularly liked watching you do the experiments and then immediately getting your explanation of what happened, why and where we might see the science shown in our everyday lives or the wider world.*

*My original intention had been to watch an experiment and then tootle off to do it for ourselves, but the children found it so engaging, they just wanted to keep on watching! My son has watched DVD 1 a couple of times since, when he has been given "leave" to watch whatever he fancies on the TV – you came in over "How to Train Your Dragon" once!!*

*We then moved on to using the books. For my part, I like the way the books are laid out. I found the introduction useful and it really resonated with me, as I have found a lot of the science recourses available to home educators really "dry" or patronizing. Others we have used have left us wondering why we have spent an hour messing up the kitchen as there doesn't seem to be any real explanation as to what the experiment is showing us – and not being a scientist myself, I haven't been able to draw any useful conclusions for the children.*

*I liked the fact that I could look through and choose experiments that might be pertinent to what we are doing in our general studies, on what time we have available to us ... or just what we might fancy doing! The book is laid out so that it is useful for me – and engaging for the children. The fact that the experiments can be done with stuff I might have in the house, or can easily lay my hands on, is another plus.*

*When working through an experiment I - as a home educator with no scientific background - find the fact that you give direction on what the objective of the experiment is, what type of science it is we are exploring (Physics, Chemistry) and where we might see the science in action in the "real world".*

*As the experiment goes on, I really like the fact that you have given us "some questions to think about". This gives me the bones of a lesson and has taught us all to ask pertinent questions! Having the answers, right there on the next page has been brilliant too! And then being able to point to examples in the real world, in everyday life, where the science is present brilliantly rounds everything up for us.*

*I particularly remember the day we did the "Obedient Squirty Bottle" experiment. We all had great fun and the children really thought it was truly magical. Interestingly though, they did figure out what forces were at work here and my son (8) was able to recount what we had done and why what had happened, to his Dad, later in the evening at dinner. In fact, we got the bottle out again and did the experiment all over with Daddy!*

*And finally, and it's a small thing, but the fact that the book is ring bound is brilliant – I just pop it on the table and it stays there, good as gold, while we work through the experiment!*

*So, going forward, we are going to continue to use the books as part of the children's education. Dr Mark's Circus Science is particularly useful to someone like me, I have learnt a great deal from the pages which explain subjects such as Matter, Mass and Weight – so that I can confidently discuss these subjects with my children.*

*We are going to use the Science books and DVDs as a curriculum in themselves, for the primary years and this is easily the best resource we have found.*

*In conclusion then; it's all been fabulous and has really re-invigorated our science lessons. Actually, this experience has re-invigorated our whole home learning attitude. Thank you so much.*

*- Emma Cura, Home Educator*