

The Curiosity Box

Hello Curiosity Cadets!
Welcome to your latest
Curiosity Box...

For best results read
all the instructions
before diving into the
activities. The best
scientists check all
the info before they
start experimenting!



COLLECTABLES:

- Items marked with an * in your "In Your Pack" list are **Collectable**
- Keep them safe and build your own home laboratory. From beakers and pumps, measuring tape to magnifying glasses... we have it covered!

To hack or not to hack... your Curiosity Box!

First check through your instructions to see whether you'll need your Box before you get creative with it.

www.curiosity-box.com



The Curiosity Box

Do you like it fast and dribbly or slow and sticky?

There's no better way to explore liquids than with slime! This super satisfying stuff has taken the world by storm and now is your chance to make all kinds of different slime, plus a bonus galaxy bauble just for Christmas! I could play with slime for hours, it is just so squidgy and lovely, I find it quite relaxing. Our slime recipes are all nice and safe but don't forget to wash your hands - you don't want to be like a snail and leave a trail of slime everywhere you go!!

Yours in curiosity,

Renée



Stefania Kapsetaki Zoology PhD Student University of Oxford



MY WORK

Did you know that the BIGGEST living thing on earth is a fungus? It's a **whopping 4 square miles** in size and it's slimy, a bit gross and a lot amazing! The **Humungous Fungus** is made up of lots of cells, making it a Multi (many) Cellular (cells) Organism (living thing). Lots of things around you, and in fact you yourself, are a multicellular organism. Have you ever stopped to wonder how something as complex as a human came about?

These sorts of questions have made me very interested in finding out more about multicellular organisms. Like why do they exist and how did they evolve?? So I have been studying at the University of Oxford, exploring super slimy green algae, trying to find some answers.

In my lab I had been growing lots of single celled green algae and one morning, I decided to add a predator into the mix. The predator started eating the algae, it was like a **slimy MASSACRE!** But then, the algae started sticking to one another forming gloopy blobs! These multicellular blobs were too big for the predator to eat so the multicellular blobs won! It was a victory for team work and a victory for slime! it got me thinking that surviving a predator might be important for the first step in the evolution of multicellular life!

Let's get curious about Stefania!

Advice I would give to my 7-11 yr old self:
Follow your passion!

The most awesome thing I have done so far is:
Play, love, and create

When I was in primary school my favourite thing to do was:
Play and explore everything in the world

I love being an scientist because:
It's fun and unpredictable

My scientific hero is:
Charles Darwin, who explored the world and found ground-breaking principles about life on our planet







RETRONAUT

The past like you wouldn't believe



This is taking rock pooling to the extreme! Way back in 1910 these two indigenous people from the Clayoquot region in Canada were collecting seaweed in some seriously sensational slime outfits.

They collected seaweed for food, especially for the nutritious fish eggs that could be found in the seaweed folds. These people also thought of seaweed as a really important medicine. Some seaweeds were used as "strengthening medicine for babies destined to be whale hunters" and "to strengthen the limbs of whalers and long distance runners, warriors and others".

Super slimy squished up seaweed was used on the inside of dugout canoes to reduce cracking. Some brown seaweed has giant beads of air to help it float. These beads of air doubled up as a fun party trick for children. They would throw the seaweed on the camp fire where the beads of air would heat up, expand and explode with a BANG!



Maybe I will try some seaweed next time I need to run a race!