

Frederick McKinley Jones Biography

Ways to use the biographies

Studying the lives and achievements of scientists is part of Sc1 (National Curriculum)-Ideas and evidence in Science - Scientific Enquiry - in the National Curriculum.

All children need to know that Minority Ethnic peoples have contributed to science in the past and present.

Read and discuss the biography of a person relevant to the area of science the children are studying. Many of the biographies have Race Equality issues in them, discuss these with the children and relate to their own experiences of Race Equality Issues.

Comprehension activities could be developed from these biographies.

Collaborative paired or group tasks and discussions could be

- What evidence did the scientists have to identify a problem?
- What did they do?
- How did it make a difference to people's lives?
- What do you think were the main difficulties that faced the scientist?

- To role play the life of the scientist.
- Produce a poster about the scientist and her/his discovery.
- Produce a story-board of their life.
- Write a list of questions they would like to ask the scientist if they could.
- How did this scientist achieve? Ask them to listen and discuss in groups the personal qualities of the person. E.g. persistence.
- Have they heard of this person before? If not, why not? Is there another scientist whom they associate with this discovery?
- Who are scientists? What do scientists do? What tools do they need?

Frederick M^cKinley Jones

1893 – 1961

Frederick McKinley Jones was born in 1893. He was an orphan for most of his childhood. He left school when he was about 12 years old. When he was a teenager he worked as a car mechanic. He was so good at working on cars that he also built racing cars.



When World War 1 started, Jones joined the army. While he was a soldier he learnt about electricity and electronics. After the war, Jones worked on a farm mending all the farm machinery. Later he went to work for a company that made equipment for making films.

One day in the early 1930's Jones heard about a man who had lost a lot of money. This man owned a truck and used to transport food from farms to the markets and shops. In those days, the only way to keep food cool was to put huge big blocks of ice in the truck. This man had had to throw a whole truck full of chicken away because the ice had melted and the chicken had gone rotten.



Frederick McKinley Jones decided to invent a machine that would keep the truck cool. In 1949 he received a patent for his air cooling system for trucks. During his lifetime, he invented 40 different types of refrigeration equipment.

Frederick McKinley Jones became a refrigeration expert and many scientists and engineers wanted to work with him. The American Government asked him for advice on the refrigeration problems they had.

Today on any motorway, you can see food trucks transporting food to the shops. All these trucks are refrigerated to keep the food cool or frozen so that when we buy it from the shops it is still fresh and good to eat.