

## Dewey Pairs

This activity gives children practice in using the subject index to find books on the shelves, and introduces them to different features of an information book. **Check with the teacher beforehand** so that you know how much is likely to be new to them / how much should just need a reminder (i.e. have they already learned about indexes etc)

You need an even number of participants or groups.

- Copy the sheets, and cut each page into six (NB tasks are paired across the page, so if you are not using them all you need to make sure you don't use two halves of different pairs).
- Give each child or trio one task and a copy of "Where's that book?"
- The task should be self explanatory, but check that they all understand what they have to do

Allow two or three minutes for this, then get them to sit down in their pairs or paired groups to explore different features of the books they have found – have some books to hand as examples. You can vary this according to the age of the children and what they already know. Start by explaining that you are not going to be looking at the subject matter of the books, but at things that might be common to most information books. (See the Glossary for explanations you might use with the children, or if you need to remind yourself what each of the terms means)

- How many of them have found hardbacks, how many paperbacks?
- Can they see the author's name on the cover? Have any of them found a book without an author? Why might this be – is there an editor instead?

Index, contents list, glossary – they may just need a reminder, or, if they haven't done this in school you may need to go through it more slowly with more explanation:

- Do you know what an index is? Look at the books you've found – do they both have an index? Has anyone got one that doesn't have an index? Why might this be?
- Do you know what a contents list is? Do all the books have one?
- What is a glossary? How many of the books have one?



Depending on age, ability, time etc you can include some of the following, or go on to the extension activity:

- What is a publisher? Can they find the publisher's name on the books?
- What is a series? How many of them have books that are part of a series? Are any of the books part of the same series even though they are on different subjects (e.g. Dorling Kindersley's Eye Witness)?
- Do they know what an ISBN is? Where would you find it on the book? Usually there is a bar code on the back of the book for the ISBN. You can go on to talk about the bar code inside the book (So that the computer knows which book you are borrowing), and on their library cards
- How old is the book? Tell them where to look for the publication date – who's got the oldest book? (You could go on to explain the difference between a new / revised edition and a re-print if the children seem interested)

#### **An alternative or extension activity**

Discuss with the children what makes a good information book. Talk about things that make it easy to find the information they want (contents list, index); things that might help them to understand the information (glossary, illustrations, diagrams). Then ask them to look at the two books they have found and assess whether they would be good books for finding information on those subjects. Give them six minutes to have a good look at the books, then take feedback.

## **Glossary**

**Author** – the person who has written the book. You are the author of anything that you write in your own words.

**Contents list** – a list of chapters or topics in the order in which they appear in the book

**Edition and date** – all of the copies of a book published at one time are part of the same edition. The date of the first time the book was published can usually be found on one of the first few pages at the front of the book on the back of the page which has the title and the author's name on it. If the book has been **reprinted** (i.e. more copies have been printed, but nothing has been changed) this date will be there too, but the book will still be the same edition. If something has been changed, perhaps updated, then the date will be given for a **new or revised edition**. So if you have a book which was first published in 2000, but says Revised Edition 2006, the information in it should be more up to date than a book published in 2005 and reprinted in 2007.

**Editor** – an editor gathers together and organises things written by other people. A general encyclopaedia, which covers a lot of subjects, will probably have been put together by an editor, as the information will have been written by people who are experts in the different subjects.

**Glossary** – a list, usually alphabetical, which explains words, relating to the subject, which you may not have come across before

**Index** – an alphabetical list of topics, usually found at the back of an information book

**ISBN** – International Standard Book Number – this is a code which identifies a book and its publisher. Nearly all new books have an ISBN bar code on the cover.

**Publisher** – the firm responsible for creating a book from the information written by the author and organised by the editor, and making it available for people to buy

**Series** – a named collection of books by the same publisher, which look similar (size, length, type of pictures, size of print). They are often on a topic (e.g. a weather series might have books on wind, sun, snow, rain)

<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>butterflies</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>915.2</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>Japan</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>595.7</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>
<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>trees</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>220</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>the Bible</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>582.16</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>
<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>Castles</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>523</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>stars</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>728</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>

<p>Use the subject index to help you find an <b>atlas</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>551.5</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>Weather</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>912</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>
<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>Music</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>612</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>the human body</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>780</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>
<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>maths</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>938</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>Ancient Greece</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>510</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>

<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>food</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>598</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>birds</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>641</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>
<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>time</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>567</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>dinosaurs</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>529</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>
<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>sport</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>741</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>	<p>Use the subject index to help you find a book about <b>drawing</b></p> <p>Look on the shelves to find out what subject has the number <b>796</b></p> <p>Find someone with a book on that subject</p>