S is for Scientists

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Investigation, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Scientific Method

**Book Brief:** This book introduces an alphabet of scientific discoveries that changed our lives—and the world.

**Author:** Larry Verstraete

**Illustrator:** David Geister

TIME TO READ!

**Before reading, build background:** When you think of a scientist, who do you think about? What does a scientist do?

**While reading, make comparisons:** Read about a few scientists at a time.

**As you read, compare what each scientist has in common. How are they different?**

**After reading, ask questions:**

- Which discoveries were most interesting to you?
- Which of these scientists would you like to work with when you are older? Why?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

**DIRT CUPS**
Ingredients: 1 box low-fat instant chocolate pudding, milk, chocolate graham crackers, gummy worms (or other small “treasures” as desired), clear plastic cups

Prepare pudding according to package directions. Spoon into small plastic cups; hide gummy worms or candy treasures in the pudding. Crush graham crackers and sprinkle on top for dirt. Refrigerate at least one hour, then let your child *unearth* a tasty treat!

**G IS FOR GATHER**
Grab a notebook or sheet of paper and go on a nature walk. “Gather” items that are beautiful or interesting by drawing pictures of or describing them in your notebook. You can also take photographs with a digital camera and make a scrapbook on the computer. What are these items? Can you identify them all?

**SHALL I COMPARE THEE?**
Materials: potato, paint, brush or sponge, knife, paper, cookie cutter (optional)

Slice a potato in half lengthwise. Use a knife to carve a simple design into the cut part of the potato. (You can also use a cookie cutter to cut a stamp out of the potato.) Cover the cut side of the potato in paint and press it flat against a sheet of paper to make potato prints. Repeat. Compare your prints—no two will be exactly alike!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

**OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR**

- *At the Edge: Daring Acts in Desperate Times* (2011)
- *Surviving the Hindenburg* (2012)