Communicating scientific ideas

write and create texts to communicate observations, findings and ideas, using everyday and scientific vocabulary

Learning intention

- write and create texts to communicate observations, findings and ideas, using everyday and scientific vocabulary

Teach and model

- exploring the difference between everyday and scientific vocabulary when describing objects or events
- creating models of the place a plant or animal lives using recycled objects, modelling clay, toys or drawings
- representing seasonal changes of plants using sequential drawings, calendars or digital photographs

Check understanding

- Explain the main idea in communicating scientific ideas using an example.
- Show the idea in a second way: with words, a model, a diagram or symbols.
- Apply the idea to a short unfamiliar situation and justify the result.

Teaching cautions

- Ask the student to explain their choice, not only state an answer.
- Check that key vocabulary is understood in a new example.
- Mix representations so the skill is transferred rather than copied.

Quick lesson sequence

- Connect to prior knowledge and introduce the key vocabulary.
- Model one clear example, then solve a second example together.
- Finish with an independent check and a short student explanation.