

# Title: Unraveling the Misconceptions About Scientists

**Subject: Science**

**Grade level: Grades 3 – 11**

## Objectives:

Science can often be perceived as a complex, fact based and uncreative field. The goal of the lesson and activities below is to have students challenge these misconceptions. Through in class exploration, students will be encouraged to ask questions about the world around them and use their imagination to figure out ways to solve these questions. They will learn that science is about asking questions and that anyone who is curious could explore the sciences.

These activities deal with an important topic. They also come in handy for substitute teachers, since there are no prerequisites involved.



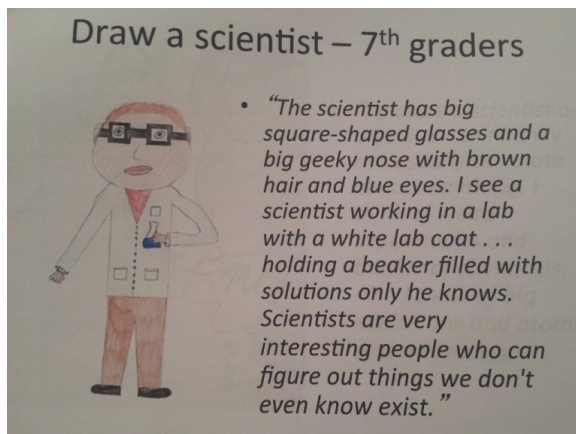
## Materials:

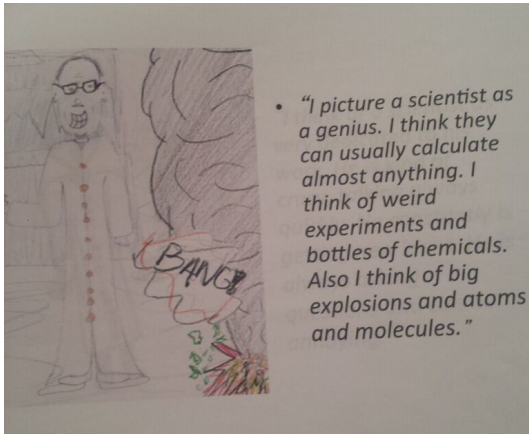
- Paper & Pencils
- Additional material can be required if one wants carry out an experiment from the link posted below (i.e. in the “extended activity” section).

## Lesson Description:

### Introduction

To begin this lesson, students will be given a blank sheet of paper and asked to draw a picture of a scientist. Older students will write a brief description beside their pictures. This activity could lead to a discussion on the students' conceptions about a science. (The idea for this activity and the sample pictures below were taken from professor Gale A. Seiler of McGill University.)





### **Follow-up Discussion**

As a follow-up, the teacher could show students how exploration is part of science. Science is about asking why and trying to find solutions to these questions. The teacher could explain how a simple action like touching a flower and observing its texture is part of science.

### **Conclusion**

As a concluding activity, students could redraw a picture of a scientist. This is a great way to see if students' perceptions have changed.

### **Extended Activities**

For future lessons or for extra-allotted time, students can be introduced to various questions and experiments. Check out the activities at the site below:

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/experiments.html>