



# Solar Crystals

## Objectives

- Strand 4: Improve using a range of drama strategies and conventions to explore themes such as hopes, fears and desires.
- Strand 7: Understand underlying themes, causes and points of view.

## Differentiation

### Support

- Work with the children in identifying problems that humans might have created on other planets, and how these could be put right. Discuss how they can structure their stories effectively (for example, opening, build up, complication, solution and ending). The children can use photocopiable page 39 'Planning a story' for support in planning.

### Extend

- Encourage the children to add dialogue that moves their stories on; from one setting to another and from one action to another.

## Cross-curricular activities

### Geography Unit 8 Improving the environment

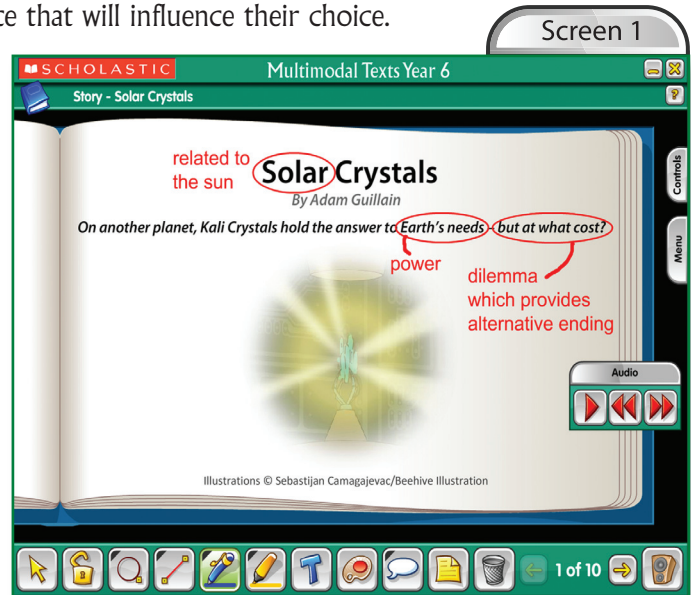
- The children can investigate alternative sustainable energy sources (for example, wind turbines and hydro power).

## Whiteboard tools

- Whiteboard tools used on the screen shots include:
  - Outline circle
  - ✎ Pen tool
  - ✎ Text tool
  - Colour used

## How the text works

- Show the children the title screen of the story *Solar Crystals*. Ask them to think about possible genres that the story might fit into. Take feedback, discussing the evidence they have for suggesting particular genres. Move on to the next illustration. Ask: *Does this confirm your predictions?*
- Discuss the children's knowledge and understanding of the science fiction genre. List any typical features of the genre (for example, often set in outer space, characters may be aliens, and can be set in the future).
- Read or listen to the story up to and including screen 8. Explain that before they choose an ending, they are going to re-read the text, gathering clues and evidence that will influence their choice.
- Return to the title screen. Focus on the title of the story and explore the children's understanding of the word *Solar*. Use an etymological dictionary to investigate the origin of the word.



## Responding to the text

- Ask the children to read the sentence on the title screen carefully. Having read some of the story, what do they think Earth's needs are? (Power.) What is the meaning of *but at what cost?*
- Go to the next screen and discuss the meaning of the final sentence. Ask: *What does this tell us about the purpose of the Explorer's mission?* (They were searching for something to replace Earth's natural resources.)
- Read through the rest of the story again up to screen 8. As you read, ask questions that encourage the children to make inferences and deductions from the text. For example: *Why was the Admiral excited about the discovery of the new planet? Why did the explorers collect samples of rock and animal life? Why were the Kali crystals 'the answer to all our problems?'*
- Ask: *What would you have done if you were a member of the Explorer's crew?* Carry out a class role play that recreates the argument that took place between the crew and the Admiral about the crystals. Nominate one child to be the Admiral. He/she must make the final decision based on what they have heard. Follow the version of the story decided by the child in role as the Admiral. As a class, discuss whether that was the right thing to do.