



**SIMULATION EXPLORER**

**Schemes of Work Supported:** KS2 ICT, some science  
**System requirements:** Pentium III+, 128MB RAM, 51MB HD Space, CD-ROM, 16-bit soundcard, speakers, whiteboard recommended, printer recommended  
**Contact details:** [www.onestopeducation.co.uk](http://www.onestopeducation.co.uk)  
**Price:** Single user £49, site license £245 (ex. VAT)



Published by Granada Learning, Simulation Explorer addresses the simulations, modelling and control elements of the KS2 ICT curriculum, as well as many elements of the science curriculum. The package

contains six elements: Alien Plant, Braking Distances, Throwing Snowballs, Pond Habitat, Tooth Decay and Circuits. In each segment there is a simple model, with a series of challenges.

In Throwing Snowballs, for example, children can alter the angle at which a snowball is thrown, and the force behind it. The challenges invite pupils to tweak these two variables to throw a snowball for a specific distance. If the difficulty level is increased (there are two levels), a third variable is introduced – wind – to make predicting the results of a particular combination more tricky. After completing the challenges, pupils can print out a certificate which helps document their learning with the program. They can also print out their results as an aid to their research towards the challenges.

The presentation of each activity is very clear, with the minimum of on-screen interference. The simulations can be operated with just a mouse or a whiteboard stylus, and every button,

question and control is spoken as well as written to make the software very approachable for children with weaker reading skills. The activities could certainly be used on a whiteboard, but, because careful and extensive experimentation is a key objective, are better suited to work in pairs on a computer.

Each activity is supported with worksheets, which are provided in PDF format, a selection of clipart and extension activities. The teacher's notes for each section are particularly good, with ideas on how to introduce and conduct the lesson, as well as full QCA and National Curriculum links for both the ICT and cross-curricular aspects of the program.

**IN BRIEF:** This is a simple and straightforward program with a very specific scope. It executes its purpose beautifully though, and will make a very worthy addition to a teacher's armoury of ICT activities.