

Your perfect remote control

APPROXIMATE TIME REQUIRED: 1 hour

GROUPING: Start in groups of four and then work individually

THE TASK

To decide what the buttons do on your perfect remote control.

INTRODUCING THE ACTIVITY

You could start pupils off in groups of four to help with inspiration at the beginning of this activity. Ask pupils to write a list of as many things that they can think of that they...

- like
- love
- hate
- are irritated by
- wish they had more or less of
- really enjoy
- try to avoid

You can also ask them to think of each of these in different settings e.g. at home, at school, in a town or city, in the countryside etc. This will help pupils to think of things they might choose for their remote control to do.

Explain the task to pupils make sure they understand the difference between the three different types of control.

The **dials** give information about quantity.

The **knobs** can make things more or less or not at all.

The **on/off** buttons can just switch things on and off!

Ask pupils to check that they have used the correct type of control for what they have chosen e.g. you wouldn't want to waste a knob control on making your window open and close when it is an open/close function and could be controlled by an on/off button. The knobs need to be saved for things you might like to vary in quantity, like temperature.

Tell pupils that their remote control cannot be changed once they have decided what it can do. Once pupils have finalised the functions of their remote control, ask them to draw a labelled diagram of it with a label describing what each knob, dial or switch does.

EXTENSION

Pupils could illustrate their remote control in action.



Your Perfect Remote Control

This is your personal remote control and information receiver. It is no ordinary remote control. It is magical! You are going to decide what it can do.

This remote control has:

Three dials that can give you information about how much there is of something.

Here are some examples of the kind of things these dials could tell you:

- how much of a bad mood someone is in
- how likely it is that you will be able to persuade someone to do something
- the chances of you getting told off
- the likelihood of snow

Four dials that can turn something up, down or off.

Here are some examples of the kind of things these dials could turn up or down or off:

- distances between places
- how difficult you find the school work in front of you
- gravity
- the size of your bedroom
- the sweetness of your food
- how quickly your hair grows

Five on and off switches.

Here are some examples of the kind of things these dials could switch on and off:

- someone's voice
- a lesson at school
- something that makes you fall asleep instantly
- something that massages you
- something that opens and closes something, like a shop or the school.

