

# Minecraft was used To Teach Children Molecular Chemistry

Minecraft used to teach children molecular chemistry

5 November 2015

The game of virtual world building Minecraft is played by millions of kids around the globe, could be used in schools to teach the science of chemistry.

A group of Hull University students created an educational version of the game that allows players to investigate specially designed molecular structures and understand chemistry.

Our aim is to involve young scientists in engaging and enjoyable ways.

Minecraft players use building blocks to build structures and landscapes.

They are also encouraged to find treasures and other items.

'Fiendishly difficult'

The students created the project with the help of the university's Minecraft expert, Joel Mills, and senior lecturer in biological chemistry, Dr Mark Lorch.

Dr Lorch said: "Minecraft is a fabulous tool to study the structure of landscapes, buildings, and even anatomy.

Strongcraft

"So why not molecules? It was demonstrated to a class of children yesterday and there were many gasps and wows.

"This is what draws their attention. It's a novel method to engage them and provide information to them.

Alongside structures and molecules to explore, the students have created numerous other fun things for children to explore and find.

Dr Lorch said: "You can just explore and learn about the molecules. There are also many treasure chests scattered around that contain puzzles, books and other goodies.

Certain are easy to locate and others are more difficult to find. If you can find them all then you'll probably have learned a bit of chemistry along the way."

## Outreach

Dr Lorch who also plays a role to engage young scientists, said: "If I've given them this information in the Minecraft world and shown them how to access it, they're much more likely to find out about it than if I have given it in the form of a PowerPoint presentation."

The Hull team is currently playing the game, MolCraft, in secondary schools in London as part of a range of outreach projects for universities.

It can also be used in primary schools for teaching fundamental science concepts, for example, how molecules are made of atoms. molecules.

It is also available on Minecraft's educational library with versions for pupils as well as teachers.

This is not the first time Minecraft has been used to get children involved with topics of science.

A world has been created to teach quantum Physics. Many schools in Northern Ireland have adapted it to encourage creative writing and engage young people with urban planning.

## Unique Minecraft project for schools

25 March 2015

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30 March 2015

