

# **Penny Johnson**

BSc (Hons), BSc (Open)

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Published author of science books for children. I am interested in all areas of science, but particularly space/astronomy and the earth sciences.

I undertake writing, consultancy, development editing and copyediting. I can write new materials, or adapt existing materials to new curricula or specifications. I also write interactive activities and animation briefs.

I deliver materials to specification and on time.

## **What I do...and why I do it**

Science is fascinating, but too many children (and adults) are put off reading or learning about science because they think it is too difficult, or not relevant to them (or both!). I see my job as helping to explain science and technology in clear and interesting ways, whether in teaching courses used in schools, in trade books or via websites or interactive activities.

## **My background**

I have been an engineer, a science teacher and Head of Science, and a full-time publisher of school textbooks. Now I am a full time freelance writer, consultant and editor, with a little supply teaching on the side.

## **Writing & publishing work**

I have co-written a number of science courses for use at home and in school, from Key Stage 1 to A level, including briefing interactive electronic materials (detailed list below). I have also commissioned and series-edited courses for use in the UK and abroad. These are all closely matched to the relevant curriculum or specification.

## **Writing:**

For Pearson Education:

- Currently involved in writing new courses for the Edexcel and AQA GCSE courses to be introduced to schools in 2011.
- Co-author of *Exploring Science HSW Edition* for Pearson Education, including briefing animations and producing PowerPoint presentations. Author of approx half the total materials.
- Series editor and co-author for the *21<sup>st</sup> Century Science* project (complete GCSE course for the OCR specification)
- Co-author of AQA Science (complete course for the AQA GCSE Science specifications).
- Co-author and commissioning editor of *Exploring Science 5 & 6*, a complete course for Years 5 and 6. Co-author of *Exploring Science 3 & 4*. Both series included writing software briefs for interactive CD-ROMs.
- Co-author and commissioning editor of *Exploring Science*, a complete course for KS3 science. Author of most of the supporting website material, including assessment material, and some of the software briefs for the ActiveBook.
- Adapted *Longman GCSE Physics* for the Edexcel IGCSE Physics specification (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> editions).

- Co-author and commissioning editor of *Foundation Science for GCSE* and *Higher Science for GCSE*, a complete course for GCSE science.
- Co-author on the *Science at Work* series (complete courses for KS3 and KS4).

For Rourke Publishing:

- Author of *Ice to Steam*, a book about changes of state for the US market, ages 8-12

For Schofield & Sims:

- Author of *Science Revision Guide* for KS1 (published 2007)
- Author of *Understanding Science*, a series of 6 workbooks covering the National Curriculum content for KS2 (published 2007).
- Author of *Science Revision Guide* for KS2, and accompanying workbook (which consists of KS2 SAT style tests).

For Sedco, Ghana:

- Series editor for *JSS Science* (3 Pupils' Books and 3 Teacher's Guides) – now adopted by the Ghana Ministry of Education.

### **Copyediting**

- Copyediting and proofreading for *Harcourt's BTEC in Children's Care, Learning and Development*.
- Adapting Raintree's *Time Travel Guide - Ancient Greece* for a 9-year-old reading age.

### **Publishing (as freelance):**

- Commissioning Pearson Education's *Longman 21st Century Science*.

### **Relevant work experience (reverse order):**

Freelance writing, editing and publishing 2002 – present

Senior Publisher for Pearson Education, Schools Division, 1998 – 2002 (managing secondary science list and commissioning new teaching materials, managing small team of editors and junior publisher)

Assistant Lecturer for *S103 – Discovering Science* for the Open University, 2002

Teacher and Head of Science, Fulwood High School, Preston, 1992-1998

Senior Engineer, British Aerospace, Warton, Lancashire, 1981-1991

### **Education and qualifications:**

BSc in Aeronautical Engineering Science, 1<sup>st</sup> Class, University of Salford, 1981

BSc in Science, Open University (various science and arts subjects, including geology, biology, astronomy, environmental science)

PGCE Science and Maths, age range 11-18, University of Manchester, 1992

Member of the Royal Aeronautical Society, Chartered Engineer, 1991\*

(\*officially no longer valid as I have given up paying the annual fees)

Basic Editing by Distance Learning (from the Publishing Training Centre) – Pass with Merit, 2003