

we the curious is a space designed to excite curiosity.

People of all ages have questions about the way the world works. We The Curious gives you a chance to explore and think about what has always puzzled you.

This is a guide to our venue and the things you may experience on your visit. We hope it helps you prepare for coming here. If you have any extra questions that we've not covered, you can call our bookings team on 0117 915 1000, (Mon to Fri, 9am-5pm) or email us on info@wethecurious.org

Choosing when to visit

We The Curious is located in the city centre and this means the surrounding area can be quite noisy. We often have events taking place on our squares and this creates extra noise and sound traffic. If you think this will affect your visit, our bookings team can let you know if any events are taking place on the day that you are thinking of coming to see us.

We can be a very busy venue. Rainy days during the holidays can be particularly busy. This can create extra sensory information as people bring in their own sounds and smells and change how the venue feels. If you are looking for a quiet time to visit our staff are always happy to advise you.

When you arrive

When you enter the venue, you will find a big open plan space incorporating our foyer, café and shop. There are sofas on either side if you want to take a break. Our information desk is on the right hand side. Look out for our members of staff; they wear dark grey aprons with coloured lanyards and will point you in the right direction.

There will be a video playing without sound above you before you enter the venue. You will also see our mirrored 'curious cube', which displays questions people have asked us.

Our foyer can get quite noisy when busy, so do let a member of staff know if you are experiencing any difficulties and we will try and fast track your entry.

Your wristband

You will be given a wristband ticket when you arrive. It has a barcode on it, which interacts with some of the exhibits. These exhibits have a sign on them to show you where to scan.

This barcode can be used throughout our exhibits to record and save pictures, videos and stats from your visit which you can then find on our website.

Another member of your party can wear your wristband for you or you can attach it to a bag or clothing.

Exploring the ground floor...

Water makes up so much of the world around us and when you enter our venue the sound of running water is one of the first things to hit your ears. Here you can: explore how water moves, change how it sounds and become a weather presenter.

Interact with an illustrated map of the city in our new exhibit, which responds to your touch with pop up projections and sounds. Embrace your curious spirit: press things, try stuff out and be inquisitive. This exhibit was shaped by visitors and staff. If you have any suggestions, feedback or would like more information, talk to a member of staff.

Our world is one of the first things you will see. In this space you can explore the past, present and future of the earth. Create your own landscape using our sand pit, watch water freeze and plants grow.

Explore the human body in more depth, look at how our senses work and when they can deceive us. Find out what you are made of; from your vital organs to your DNA.

Discover how we grow and evolve over time; find out what your brain weighs.

Taste the culinary delights in our kitchen; investigate the diets of different cultures, look at how we fuel our body and let a robot design a meal for you.

Look at nature in action in our Greenhouse. Unearth how and when things grow. Take a peek into our beehives on our live feed and for our younger visitors, become a bee and show off your waggle dance!

Investigate energy - try your hand at creating and storing energy with pumps, handles and generators. Discover how it changes and adapts to the world around us.

Watch out for flying objects in our flight zone. Explore how airflow changes how objects move and create and test your own flying machine.

Look up close at the wheels of a real plane and find out about the history of flying objects.

Challenge your expectations in The Box, our exhibition space where art meets science.

Now head upstairs...

And step into **a world of animation**. Look behind the scenes at what goes into creating some of Bristol's most memorable characters. Create your own stories and characters using our animation stations.

Unleash your **inner inventor** in our tinkering space; meet robots, see 3D printers in action; play, create and invent with a host of imaginative activities and new technology.

Try out more new technology in our test-lab; view yourself in a virtual reality experiment and feedback how you'd like this space to develop.

Listen out for metallic sounds from our turntable. See how shapes move in different ways, then bring these patterns to life on our sand turntables.

Investigate what happens when our perception is distorted; see how illusions are created and how they can affect us. Experiment with light and colour; use your shadow to create images, see how the world looks from inside a bubble.

Sounds are made of vibrating particles. Discover how different sounds feel by standing on our sound plate or break down sounds on our reactable exhibit.

Test out the forces at work in the world around us, look at how they affect the way we build, experiment with magnets and how they change the way materials behave.

Test your **problem solving** skills while exploring some practical mathematics.

Find out how astronauts navigate space in our space gallery. Listen for the sound of our airlock, where you can see yourself in a virtual spacewalk, and experiment with how an alarm changes in a vacuum. Explore how things move when friction is reduced and view particles not visible to the naked eye.

For younger visitors (under 8's) we have **Build It;** a space to build your own environments using bricks and tiles.

That completes the tour! As we are a working venue this means that occasionally exhibits will be under maintenance or being updated. If you have any questions about this contact our bookings team or speak to a member of staff on the day.

Activities

During the day, we have a variety of activities running throughout the venue. These activities change regularly and all of them are included in your ticket except the planetarium, which is an additional cost. Some of these activities do have age restrictions.

Here's a flavour of the types of activities that take place and where they happen in the venue. Check out our website to see what's on when you're planning to visit www.wethecurious.org

Live lab is an open-access laboratory. Here you might be able to take part in live research, organ dissections, use scientific equipment and have conversations with scientists from different fields.

In our Kitchen, we explore novel ways of using food and run activities to increase your understanding of the science behind food.

Activities in our **Greenhouse** give you a chance to explore plants, from those that grow the food you eat to plants you wouldn't see in your average garden.

Storytelling sessions give younger visitors an opportunity to take part in some simple science activities lead by our live science team.

The **Studio** is home to our live science shows – expect fun, humour and audience participation. Our studio shows involve various sights, sounds and even sometimes smells. We're always happy to give you a specific description of the shows and you can approach the presenter before the show on the day.

Our drop-in activities in the **Tinkering space** offer a chance to play, create and invent.

Our **Planetarium** is the most advanced planetarium in the UK. Our team of presenters will guide you through our stunning shows demonstrating the wonders of space. Our 3D shows are for aged 6+, but we also have fantastic 2D shows. The planetarium involves being in a dark space with visuals, music and is presented by a member of our team who may interact with the audience. Speak to a member of staff if you would like more information.

A breakdown of noises around the venue

During your visit you may hear a member of staff on the tannoy system announcing our upcoming shows and this is louder in the toilets and staircases.

If we need to leave the building quickly, an alarm will sound and our staff will guide you to the nearest exit.

There are exhibits around our venue that make noises. Some of these are constant, others make noise when you interact with them. Below is a breakdown of some of the things you will hear during your visit.

On the ground floor

- Our new exhibit is an interactive, illustrated map of the city and has a wide variety of voices, music and sounds when you play with it
- Water is constantly running around our move it section; you may also hear a loud drumming as visitors explore the shimmery sky exhibit.
- Nearer the back of the ground floor, there is a game exploring bovine tuberculosis that makes various sounds and our womb simulates the sounds of pregnancy.

On the first floor

- The 'Build it' area can be a noisy as our younger visitors explore and play.
- Our metallic turntable by Build it can make a lot of noise and there are also some tone pipes which make different sounds.
- An air table is constantly running in our Tinkering Space - this sounds like a large fan.
- There is a film that runs on a TV near our Animate It section.
- We have a music table where visitors can create and adapt their own sounds. Close by, there is also an exhibit called Good Vibrations that creates noise to vibrate sand when buttons are pressed.
- In our space gallery, the airlock makes noise when you approach it. There is an alarm in a vacuum that is activated by a button. The air table creates a sound like air hockey when activated.

Please let us know any feedback you have about this document, the accessibility of our venue and things we could do to make your visit more enjoyable: info@wethecurious.org