

1) This is my first year teaching at Al-Huda school, a private Islamic school. Due to financial constraints, I was asked to teach science to several grades. One of the challenges I am facing is to promote an enthusiasm, appreciation, knowledge, and understanding of the sciences in the midst of little to no resources. I encourage independent learning and thinking; however, I firmly believe that a student learns by experience. An example of classroom innovation would be my purchase of a small microscope from a goodwill store. My husband and I spent hours fixing and refurbishing the microscope. I was able to use it in the classroom to see different animal and plant cells. The children enjoyed it. Furthermore, I shared my great find with my students. One of the students volunteered that he had an even larger microscope at home from his father's workplace. The next day the family donated the microscope. Now we have two working microscopes in the classroom.

2) As many schools, we suffer from a lack of resources. As a matter of fact, I do not even have the teacher editions for several levels of my science classes including Chemistry and Biology. This means that I do not have practice tests, suggested lesson plans or supplemental assignments. A group of teachers have joined together to create remedies to some of the challenges that we face. For example, my daughters have kept many of their reinforcement worksheets, quizzes, and tests. Oftentimes, I have used their previous work as a guideline as I have created tests and supplemental exercises. Likewise, I was able to help my colleague in mathematics. This is my experience in overcoming the huge problem of lack of resources. Our students have been sent to my class to get a good education. They are the future chemists, biologists and mathematicians. It is my duty to engage them in learning and problem solving with enthusiasm, resilience, and diligence.