

PENCIL (Permanent European Resource Centre for Informal Learning) combines field programmes and academic research with the aim of identifying the keys of success that transform informal science activities into innovative quality tools for science teaching.

The pilot project of Technopolis within the PENCIL project is: 'Who did it?'

The project familiarises children, pupils and their teachers as well as the public at large with different aspects of forensic and life sciences. This theme covers different disciplines of science such as chemistry, biology and technology.

It also trains observation skills as well as deduction skills by encouraging children to combine clues to find the solution – skills which are very important in scientific research.

21 primary and secondary schools collaborate in this project.

Target group: 10-14 years old, large public

'Who did it?' consists of 3 complementary parts:

# Who did it?



## Website

### 'The mystery of the vanished blue canary bird'

- **7 online experiments** referring to forensic science are presented at [www.experimenteer.be](http://www.experimenteer.be)
- **Themes:** animal prints, fingerprints, identifying piece of clothes and voice recordings, blood types, DNA comparison and pollen identification.
- **Characters:** a whole family (parents, kids, grandparents, animals, neighbours ...)
- **Target group:** 10-12 years old, large public



## Interactive exhibits

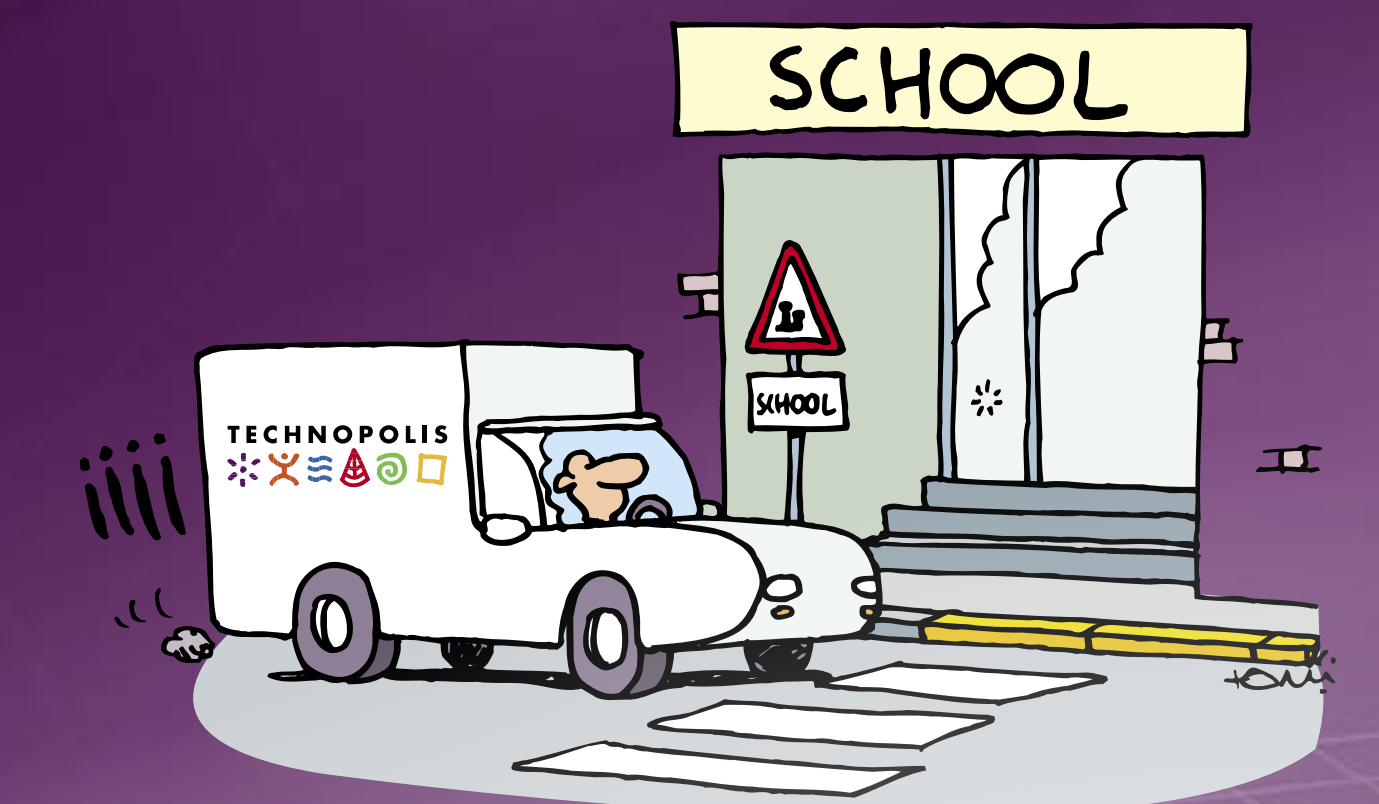
- As **secret agents** the pupils are carried away in the biggest challenge that exists: saving the world. A mysterious box that drifted ashore contains a dangerous virus that threatens the whole world. The virus will escape in exactly an hour and a half. Unless of course the pupils manage to neutralise it...
- **3 interactive exhibits** were developed:
  - Are there any witnesses? Track them down! Who has seen the box at the beach? There are several witnesses. In classifying the clues in a logical way, the pupils will be able to track them down.
  - Do the unknown inscriptions in the box contain valuable information? The secret agents have to decipher the strange characters by means of the foreign alphabet.
  - Is the patient infected? A little girl is lying in quarantine in the hospital. Is it already too late? Is she already infected with the virus? Her life is in the pupils' hands: they have to type her blood group and examine all her organs.
- **Target group:** 12-14 years old



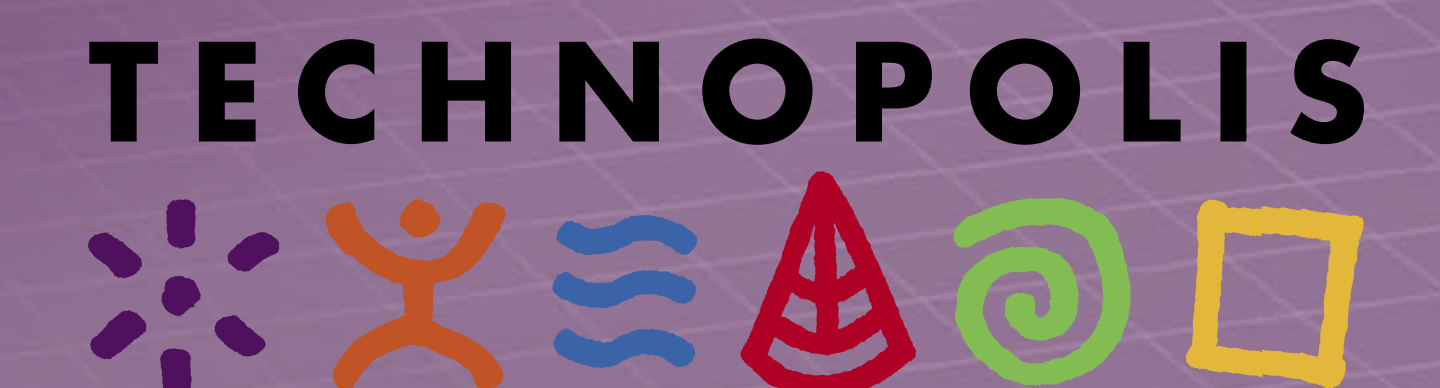
## Stop the thief!

An edutainer of Technopolis attends a school and presents an exciting workshop.

- The school is the scene of a crime and the pupils assist in solving a mysterious burglary.
- A code is found that can be deciphered through mathematical thinking and reasoning by logic.
- Fingerprints have to be found and compared with those of possible criminals.
- There is a link to hygiene by establishing the distinction between washed and unwashed hands by means of a microbial medium.
- Attention is focussed on recourse to sensory perceptions, objective observations and systematically taking notes, as the pupils have to analyse a film recorded by a security camera.
- Furthermore, various tests are offered to teach in an interactive way to the pupils how the senses function.
- Finally a burglary alarm is built which helps to prevent future crimes.
- **Target group:** 10-12 years old



pencil



where experimenting is fun