



## Teacher Guide



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# Introduction

## Welcome to Tigtag

Tigtag is a digital education resource designed to help teachers to deliver engaging and accurate science and geography lessons to students aged 7–11. Created by an award-winning team of teachers and producers, each of Tigtag’s short films has been crafted using real-world imagery. Using the best documentary footage, Tigtag films offer information in a concise visual format, making topics accessible to both students and teachers by illustrating concepts using real-world examples.



## Getting started

This guide provides information on how Tigtag can be used to support teachers in the classroom, how to navigate the website and an overview of the site’s learning materials and features. With access to hundreds of short films, practical activities, lesson ideas, and interactive features, discover how to create your own lesson plans or follow those provided to engage your students and clearly explain even the most complex scientific concepts.

# How to make the most of Tigtag

## Preparing for a lesson

Use pre-designed lesson ideas, pick and choose films, diagrams and activities, or simply download a ready-made 60-minute lesson plan to start teaching straightaway!

Each topic background includes relevant, practical activities and lesson ideas, along with a short film from our secondary science resource, Twig, giving you everything you need to know about the topic and making sure you stay one step ahead.



## In the classroom

### Introduce an area of learning

1. Play a context film at the beginning of a lesson to spark discussion.
2. Use the Review Questions in the Classroom Toolbar to gauge how much students already know about the topic.
3. Following a discussion, play a curriculum film, to introduce key learning points for the topic and reinforce previously discussed ideas.

### Scientific enquiry

1. Try out the Practical Activities suggested for each unit. There are different types depending on the size of your resources cupboard!
2. Try a class investigation, by downloading the Planning an Investigation worksheet. Generate a hypothesis, collect results and reach a conclusion - just like a real scientist!

### Practice literacy

1. Download and adapt the film transcripts, deleting keywords and inserting blank lines.
2. Let students fill in the blanks as they watch the films.
3. Ask students to read aloud the keywords as the film is playing.
4. Now you can show them the closed captions so students of all levels can understand the science at their own pace.

### As a tool for assessment

1. Use the Review Questions at the end of a lesson to map your students' understanding.
2. Download the PDF Topic Quiz and complete as a whole class or in groups.
3. Use the unlabelled diagrams to test students' knowledge while they watch the relevant film.

# How to use Tigtag

## Logging in



Click the Log in button at the top right-hand corner of the homepage.

Enter your username and password.

If you forget your password, just click the “Forgotten your password?” link and enter the email address associated with your account. You will be sent an email which will enable you to reset your password.

A screenshot of the login form titled 'Log in to Tigtag and Tigtag Junior'. It contains two input fields: 'Username or e-mail' with the value 'hcashin@twig-world.com' and 'Password' with masked characters '.....'. Below the password field is a blue link that says 'Forgotten your password?'. At the bottom of the form is a 'Log in' button.

## Finding films and subject content

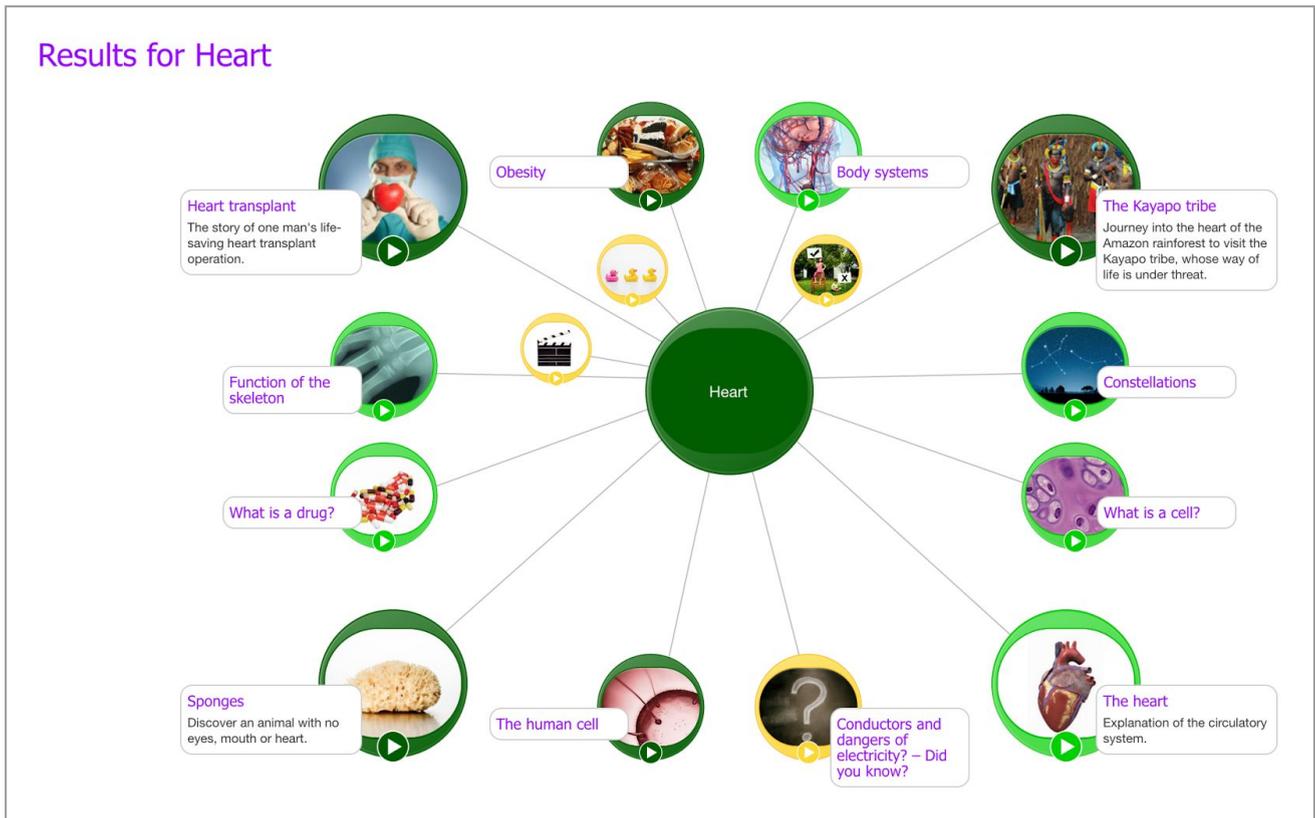
There are a number of ways to find Tigtag films and learning materials.

### Option A: Use the search box

Enter a subject keyword into the search box.

For example, if you wanted to find information for a lesson about the heart, enter the term ‘heart’ into the search box and press return. A variety of relevant films will be shown.

Roll over the images for more information about each film.



There are three types of Tigtag films:

- **Curriculum films** cover the main teaching points for the lesson. They are available in both standard and simplified English. The simplified versions are accessible to students working at CEFR levels A2 to B1 (elementary to early intermediate language users). These films have a light green border.
- **Context films** use exciting examples from the real world to deepen your students' understanding of the topic. These films have a dark green border.
- **Tidbit films** are only 30 to 60 seconds long. They encourage fun, active learning with games like **True or false** and **Odd one out**.

Select the film you want to play. When you click on a film, you will be taken to the film page.

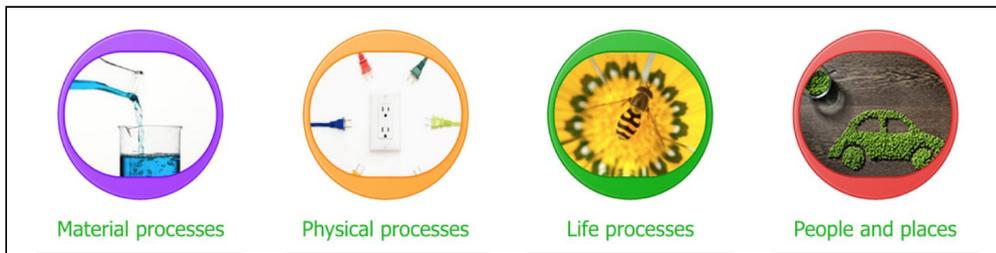
### Option B: Use the Mindmap

You can explore the breadth of resources in Tigtag using the unique Mindmap interface. This interface divides the curricular content into modules, topics and units.

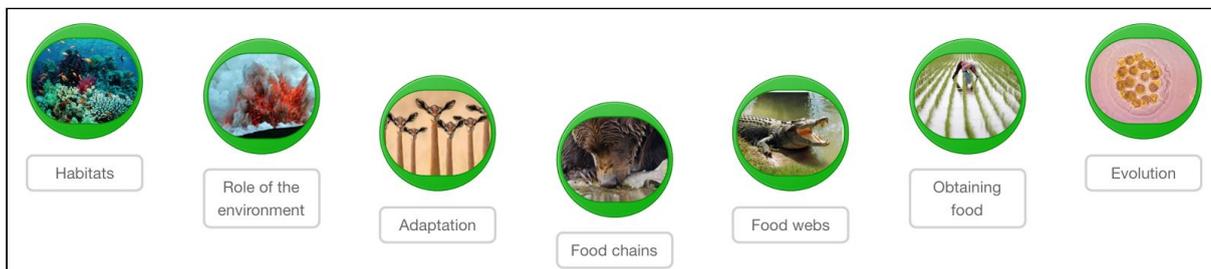
Tigtag consists of four modules (or subjects):

- Life processes (Biology)
- Material processes (Chemistry)
- Physical processes (Physics)
- People and places (Geography)

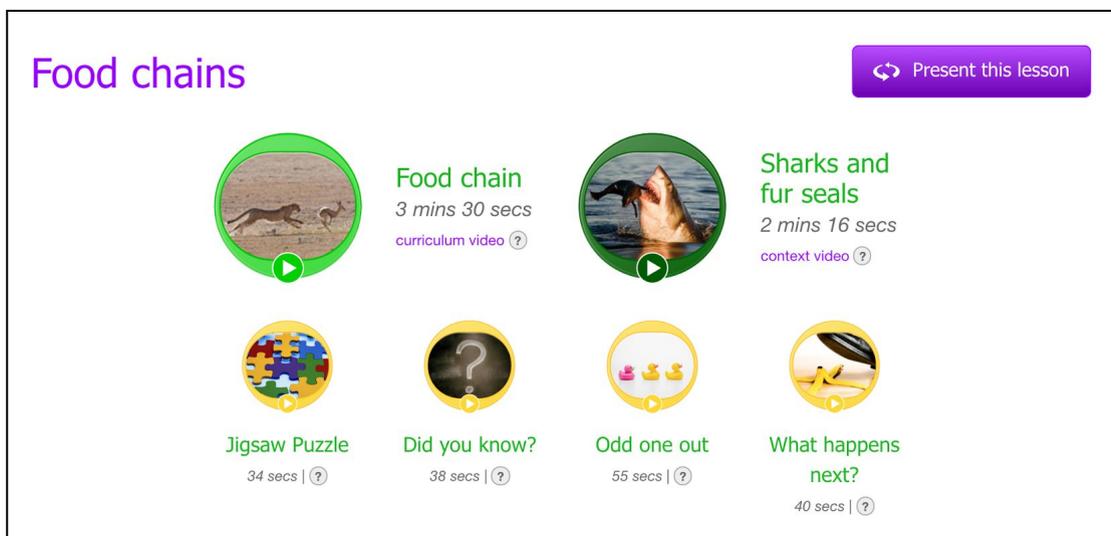
Select a one of the modules. You will be taken to a page displaying the different topics in the module.



On this page, select your topic of interest from one of green circles. You will be taken to another page displaying the different units in the module.



Once you click on the unit you are interested in, you will be taken to that unit's page.



Each learning unit consists of one or two core films, one or two context films and four shorter Tidbit films, as seen above.

Each unit is designed to fill around an hour of teaching time but can be adapted as necessary.

# Food chains

 Present this lesson



**Food chain**  
3 mins 30 secs  
curriculum video ?



**Sharks and fur seals**  
2 mins 16 secs  
context video ?



**Jigsaw Puzzle**  
34 secs | ?



**Did you know?**  
38 secs | ?



**Odd one out**  
55 secs | ?



**What happens next?**  
40 secs | ?

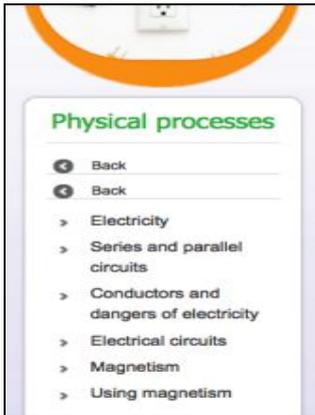
**Note:** You can always see where you are on the site and jump to higher sections by using the navigation path at the top of the page. If you want to return to the homepage, simply click the Tigtag logo.

### Option C: Search by lesson

**FIND LESSONS ▾**

Click on the 'Find lessons' button and in the dropdown list, click 'Topics'. You will be shown the topics in each module.

			
<p><b>Material processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Solids, liquids and gases</li> <li>2 Changing materials</li> <li>3 Classifying materials</li> <li>4 Separating mixtures</li> </ul>	<p><b>Physical processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Energy and energy transfer</li> <li>2 Electricity and magnetism</li> <li>3 Force and motion</li> <li>4 Light</li> <li>5 Sound</li> <li>6 The Earth and beyond</li> </ul>	<p><b>Life processes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Living processes</li> <li>2 Body systems</li> <li>3 Green plants</li> <li>4 Living things in their environments</li> <li>5 Variation and classification</li> <li>6 Humans and other animals</li> </ul>	<p><b>People and places</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Environmental awareness and care</li> <li>2 Future of energy</li> <li>3 Human impact on the environment</li> <li>4 Human geography</li> <li>5 Mapping</li> <li>6 Physical geography</li> </ul>



Select the topic you are interested in e.g. 'Electricity and magnetism'.

You will then be shown the units in that topic.

Select the unit you are interested in e.g. Electricity.

You will then be taken to the units for that topic.

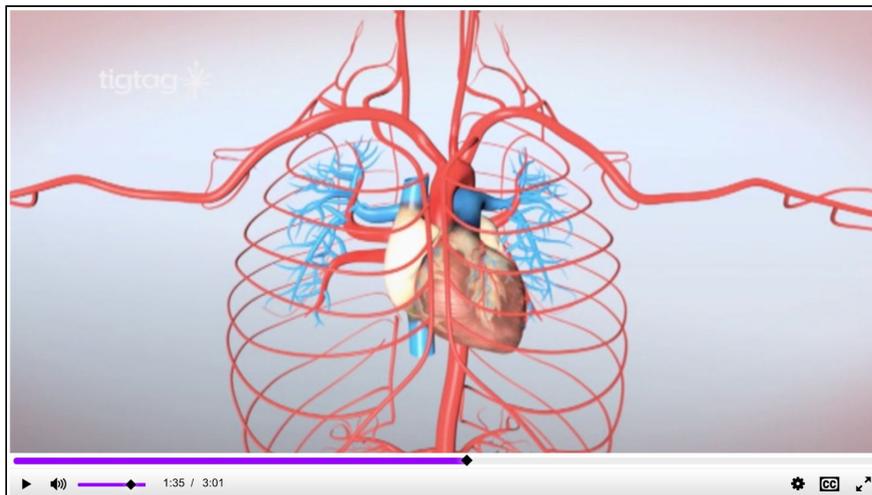
## Watching a film

Once you click on a unit, you will be taken to the unit page, which has a curriculum video, a context video, and a selection of tidbit videos.

To present this lesson to your class simply click the 'Present this lesson' button in purple and it will allow you to see everything in full screen.

To simply watch a film, click on one of the film icons and you will be taken to the film page. The film information page includes the film you have selected, plus:

- A transcript which tells you what is discussed in the film.
- Film info, which gives you the film's key learning points.
- Related videos that give you other films linked to the topic.



Share

The share or embed button enables you to place the film in your lesson plan or in other HTML web pages.

The purple bar under the film shows you how much of the film has played. The remaining grey area of the bar shows how much of the film is left to play.

The film's volume can be adjusted using the slider in the bottom of the player. This can also be turned off by clicking the volume button to mute the sound.



You can adjust the bitrate for the film according to the speed of your internet connection by selecting the appropriate quality from the settings accessed through the cog icon in the toolbar under the film.



Closed captions are available on all our films, making them accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing students. Captions help all students improve vocabulary by reinforcing key words and phrases. Captions can also be used to improve language learning for speakers with English as an additional language. You can turn on closed captions by clicking the CC button. They can be turned off by clicking the CC button again.



To play the film at full screen size, click the button in the bottom right of the grey bar.



You can reduce the size of the film and get back to the film page by clicking the button again. The controls in the bottom grey bar disappear as the film plays but can be retrieved when you hover the mouse over the film.

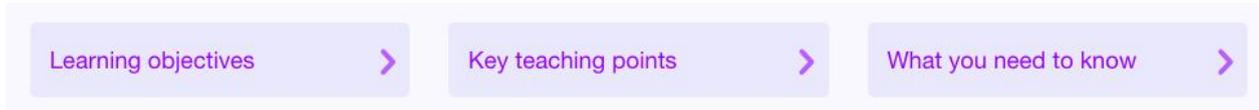


You can pause the film at any time by pressing the pause button.

## Other learning materials

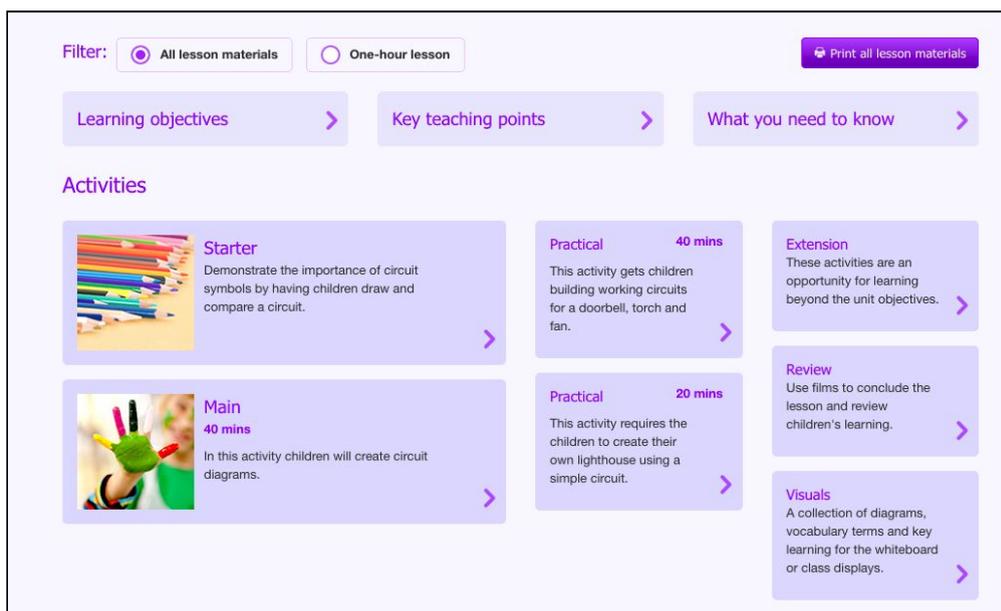
Navigating back to the unit page, beneath the film icons you will be able to find further resources to enhance your lessons.

Firstly, there are three buttons, taking you to the 'Learning objectives' of the unit, the 'Key teaching points', and 'What you need to know' as the teacher to deliver the lesson effectively.



As further guidance in covering all basic aspects of the unit, there are additional teaching materials available to help you engage your students. These include:

- A selection of practical activities (including the time each activity takes so you can successfully fit these into your lesson plans).
- 'Extension' activities to broaden your students' learning.
- A 'Review' section containing films to consolidate students' learning.
- Classroom 'Visuals', providing labelled diagrams which can be used effectively on a classroom whiteboard or displays.
- Assessment tools including a range of questions and quizzes to test your students' understanding.

A screenshot of a web interface for lesson materials. At the top, there is a 'Filter:' section with two radio buttons: 'All lesson materials' (selected) and 'One-hour lesson'. To the right is a purple button with a printer icon and the text 'Print all lesson materials'. Below the filter are three navigation buttons: 'Learning objectives', 'Key teaching points', and 'What you need to know', each with a right-pointing chevron. The main section is titled 'Activities' and contains six activity cards. Each card has a small image on the left, a title, a duration, a description, and a right-pointing chevron. The activities are: 1. 'Starter' (40 mins) with an image of colored pencils; 2. 'Main' (40 mins) with an image of a hand holding a green circuit board; 3. 'Practical' (40 mins) with an image of a doorbell; 4. 'Practical' (20 mins) with an image of a lighthouse; 5. 'Extension' with an image of a film strip; 6. 'Review' with an image of a film strip; 7. 'Visuals' with an image of a whiteboard.

### Assessment

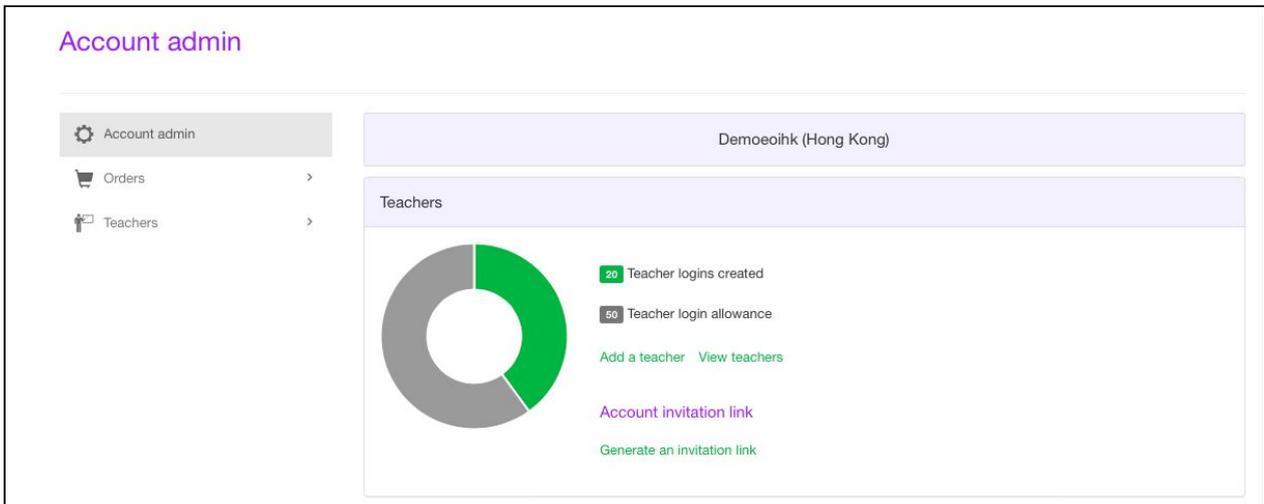
- Quiz**  
Assess children's learning with interactive quiz questions. >
- Review**  
Use the review questions to assess how far children understand the science. >
- Further Questions**  
Questions with answers that slot easily into lesson plans. >
- Investigation**  
Weird and wonderful questions unpicked in 500 words >

## Creating teacher accounts

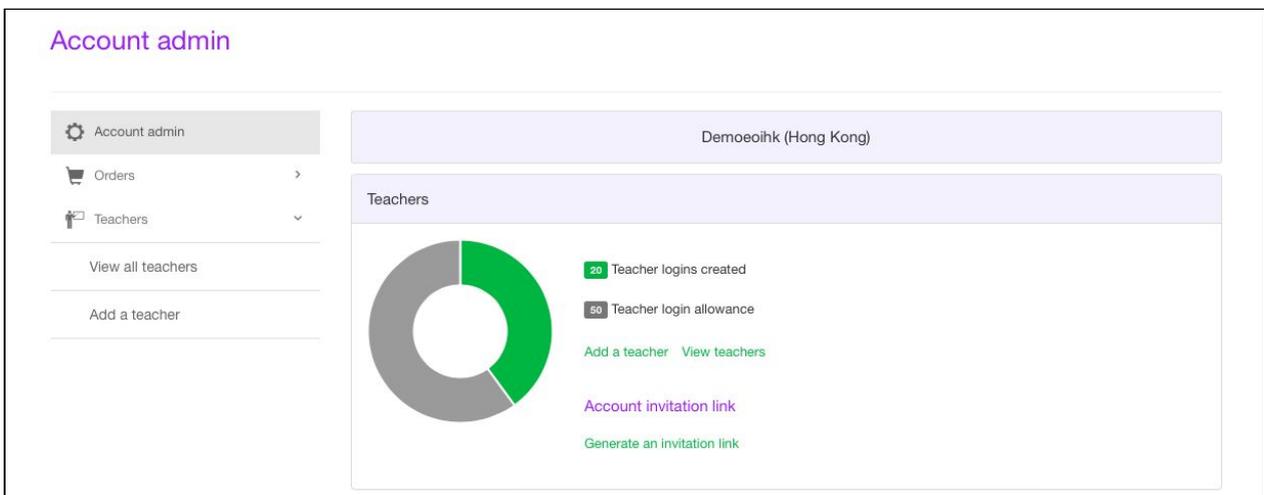
To create new accounts for teachers, click on your username in the top righthand corner of the browser, and select 'Account' from the dropdown list.

The screenshot shows the top navigation bar of the Tigtag website. On the right, the user's email address 'demoeoihk1@gmail.com' is displayed with a dropdown arrow. A dropdown menu is open, showing three options: 'Account', 'User settings', and 'Logout'. Below the navigation bar, there is a featured article titled 'Topical science: Fantastic beasts and how to name them'. The article includes a circular image of a beetle with a play button icon, a short introductory paragraph, and a 'Read more...' link with a right-pointing arrow.

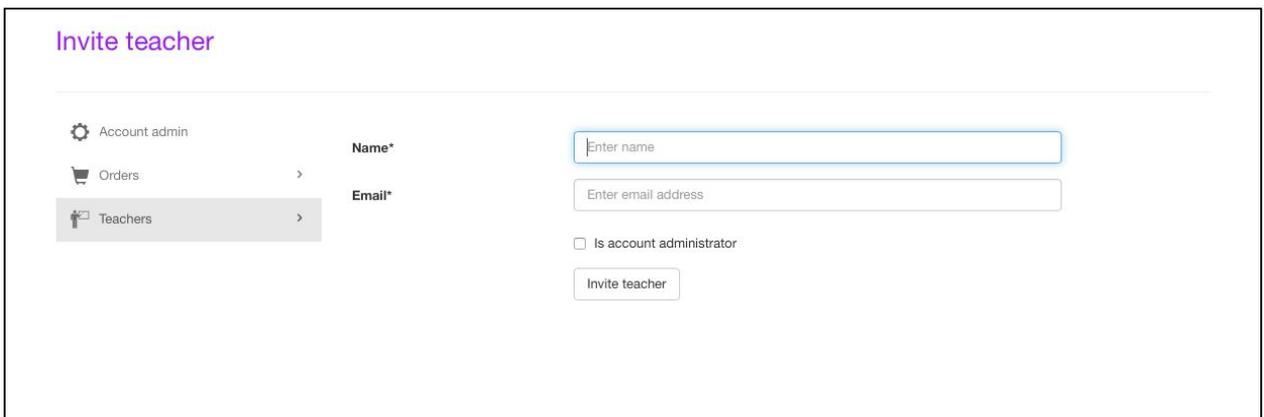
Click 'Teachers' under 'Account admin'.



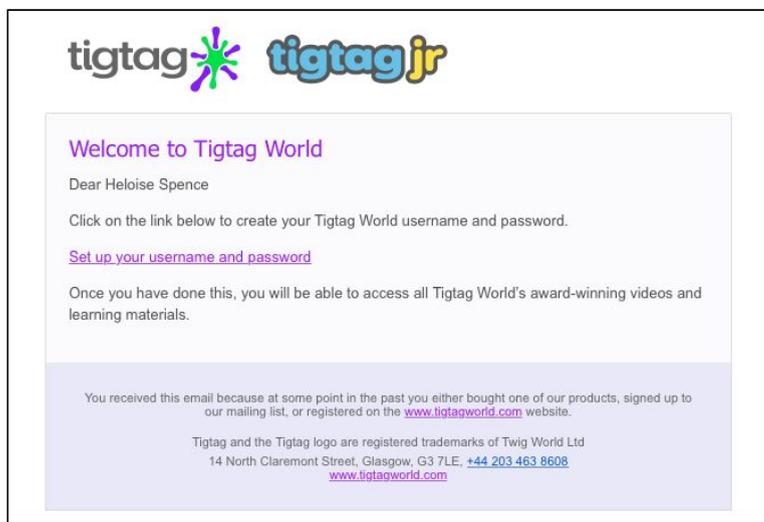
Then select 'Add Teacher' from the dropdown list.



Set up a new user by entering the teacher's name and email address.



The teacher will then receive the following email which will enable them to set up their own account.



## Help and Support

### Technical Support

The minimum system requirements to play Tigtag films are as follows:

#### Operating Systems

- Windows XP or later
- Mac OSX 10.6 or later

#### Browsers

- Internet Explorer 8 or later
- Safari 5 or later
- Google Chrome 9 or later
- Firefox 4 or later

Tigtag films can be streamed at three different bitrates – 400, 800 or 1400 Kbit/s. You can increase or decrease the bitrate of Tigtag films to suit the speed of your internet connection. The site will prompt you to change the bitrate if it detects you are having trouble streaming a film.

However, if your internet connection is very slow it will affect the streaming of films and loading of pages. You can check your connection speed by using either of these two websites:

- [pingtest.net](http://pingtest.net)
- [speedtest.net](http://speedtest.net)

You can also use the site's HTTP player, which allows you to buffer a film in advance of watching it with your class – a good option if your internet connection is very slow. To use the HTTP player, go to the drop-down menu in the top right of the screen and select 'User settings'.

In User settings, select the 'Site preferences' tab. From there you can click on the green 'Switch to HTTP player' link to change your player mode.

## Contact Us

If you have any questions or experience any technical difficulties while using Tigtag please contact us on +852-2354-0860 or via [hongkong@twig-world.com](mailto:hongkong@twig-world.com) ☐