

Year 5 Topic

Stargazers



Journey through space – the final frontier! Let's take a trip to the stars, planets and suns and discover the amazing wonders of the night sky.

During this topic, we'll read information texts to find out about the Solar System and the Sun, using mnemonics to help us remember the facts. We'll make a Solar System and investigate the cycle of day into night. We'll learn about Galileo, the 'father' of modern astronomy and his famous astronomical discoveries. Taking on the roles of the planets, we'll use movement to demonstrate the motions of the planets and moons. We'll investigate and developing an understanding lunar myths. At the end of the project, we'll look at alien-themed comics, invent our own aliens and consider the big question: why is there life on Earth?

At the end of the topic, we will be creating and designing our own rockets.

Help your child prepare for their project

The possibilities are endless when you're thinking about the vastness of space. Why not work together to make a papier mâché model of your favourite planet? You could also read a science-fiction book to see how space is presented. Alternatively, visit the local library together to find fascinating non-fiction books about space.

What will you choose to do?

- Keep a Moon diary over the course of a lunar month. Draw the shape of the Moon each night, finding out and recording the correct term for each lunar phase.
- Use non-fiction books, astronomy magazines and the web to find and record amazing facts about space. Create a space scrapbook using your facts and downloaded images.
- Visit your local library and search for space-themed books. These could be non-fiction, novels or poetry books. Write a review of your favourite to display in the library or school.
- Search the night sky and try to identify the Moon, stars or even some of the other planets in the Solar System such as Venus or Mars. Use binoculars or a telescope if possible. You might also be able to use an app which will help you to locate the position of the stars.
- Imagine... an alien space ship has crash landed in your back garden. Write a story about what happens next. You may want to borrow ideas from space stories or films you know well. Remember to use powerful vocabulary to bring your story (and your alien) to life!
- So far, 24 astronauts have visited the Moon. Find out their names, download pictures and record interesting facts about them.
- Write a letter of application to the UK Space Agency to become an astronaut. What personal qualities or skills would you need to carry out this role?
- Write a film review of a space-themed film that you have watched with your family. Some great films to choose might be *Wall-E* (U), *ET* (U), *Star Wars* (PG) or *Apollo 13* (PG). How many 'stars' would you award your film?
- Design and create an astronaut space helmet or alien headwear using junk materials. Bring it to school and take part in a space-inspired fashion parade!
- Teach your family the order of the planets in the Solar System using your mnemonic, then test them! Have they remembered correctly?
- Using non-fiction books and online research, find out the names of some of the best-known star constellations. On a clear night, try to identify them. Draw diagrams of those you have spotted. Do you think the names they have been given suit them?
- Make a 3-D model of the Solar System which displays all the planets in order.