

Stargazers- Parent information

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 half term, 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 lunar myths and write astronaut poetry. Then we'll make a space shuttle or satellite, testing the materials for durability, and we'll program toys to explore a lunar landscape. At the end of the project, we'll consider the big question: why is there life on Earth?

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 watch a science-fiction film or read a book to see how space is presented. Alternatively, visit the local library together to find fascinating non-fiction books about space.

Suggested texts	Northern Lights – Philip Pullman; Alone on a Wide, Wide Sea – Michael Morpurgo; Cosmic – Frank Cottrell Boyce; Charlie and the Great Glass Elevator - Roald Dahl
Memorable experience	Visit an observatory or planetarium
Innovate challenge	Rocket launch
English	Mnemonics; Myths and legends; Free verse poetry; Newspaper reports; Descriptions
Science	Earth and space; Forces; Working scientifically
A&D	Printing; Design
Computing	Programming; Stop motion animation
D&T	Selecting materials; Research; Structures; Evaluation
Geography	Locating physical features
History	Significant individuals – Galileo Galilei, Isaac Newton; 1960s space race
Music	Music; Lyrics
PE	Dance

Home learning ideas - What will you choose to do?

Activities

1. Use a range of sources to find out about the planets in our Solar System, such as their diameter, position from the Sun, number of moons, day length, year length and type, for example gaseous or terrestrial. Record your results in a table.
2. Use books or the internet to find out how the Earth's rotation causes day and night and discuss this with an adult. Model the action of the Sun and Earth and how they create day and night using a ball (to represent Earth) and a torch (to represent the Sun). Write a short paragraph to explain day and night.
3. Use an app to help you to locate features in the night sky. Examples include natural objects, such as the Moon, planets, constellations and nebula, or man-made objects, such as the International Space Station or Starlink satellites. Choose how to record your observations.
4. Find out about a significant space scientist and write a biography or fact file about their life and work. Examples include Claudius Ptolemy, Ibn al-Haytham, Edwin Hubble, Stephen Hawking or Mae Carol Jemison.
5. The company SpaceX are developing a new spacecraft to carry people to Mars. Imagine that you have been asked to provide travel guidance to interplanetary travellers. Create a leaflet about Mars to convince people to visit. Find out key facts and suggest the best places to visit and what to pack. Use persuasive language to appeal to your audience of potential visitors.
6. Before clocks and watches were invented, people used sundials to measure the passage of time. Make a shadow clock or sundial, using instructions found online. Use your creation to tell the time and consider how accurate it is compared to modern clocks. Explain to an adult how your shadow clock or sundial works, describing the movement of the Earth relative to the Sun in your explanation. These activities are for you to do at home. You can do all of them or choose the ones that you find most interesting. Stargazers Generic/Home learning

