

Planet Earth

Celebrations!

Congratulations, Space Cadet! You've safely travelled across and around our solar system, learning things you might not have known before, and are now ready to graduate from **Astronaut Academy**.

Earth is the planet of **Celebrations**. It's a planet where billions of people live together with trillions of species of plants and animals, and it's certainly a place worth celebrating! After all, outer space might be a very nice place, but wherever you roam, there's no place like home!

Some books / texts you could read while visiting this planet:

- ❑ 'Up On Cloud Nine' by Anne Fine.
- ❑ The Harry Potter novels by J.K. Rowling.
- ❑ 'Peter Pan In Scarlet' by Geraldine McCaughrean.
- ❑ 'Hurricane Gold' by Charlie Higson (James Bond story.)
- ❑ 'Martyn Pig' by Kevin Brooks.
- ❑ 'Soppy Birthday' by Jean Ure.

TASKS

1. Using the websites or addresses that your teacher or librarian can make available to you, try to set up a penfriend for yourself who lives in a different culture in the world. If possible, choose someone who is linked to the culture you have read about. Exchange letters throughout this year.

2. Create a poster showing what you've learned about the culture in the book that you have read. Illustrate its foods, beliefs, where it is found in the world, and highlight how it is different to our own culture. What would be the best thing about being part of that culture?

Good job, Space Cadet. This planet helps you with your 'Celebrations' theme. With a degree from Astronaut Academy, now it's time to move on to Year 8, live long, and prosper!



Neptune

Other Cultures

You have landed on planet Neptune, which is a planet named after the Roman God of the Sea. It has a greenish glow, two moons, and is now recognised as the last planet in our solar system.

Neptune is the planet of **Other Cultures**. A culture is the set beliefs and traditions that belong to a group of people. Here you will read books that introduce you to other places, and other races, helping you to see things through other cultures' eyes.

Some books / texts you could read while visiting this planet:

- 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah
- 'The Well' by Mildred D. Taylor
- 'Coming To England' by Floella Benjamin
- 'Journey To Jo'Burg' by Beverley Naidoo
- Jenny Sullivan's novels, based in the Welsh Culture.
- 'Kiss The Dust' by Elizabeth Laird.

TASKS

1. Using the websites or addresses that your teacher or librarian can make available to you, try to set up a penfriend for yourself who lives in a different culture in the world. If possible, choose someone who is linked to the culture you have read about. Exchange letters throughout this year.



2. Create a poster showing what you've learned about the culture in the book that you have read. Illustrate its foods, beliefs, where it is found in the world, and highlight how it is different to our own culture. What would be the best thing about being part of that culture?



Good job, Space Traveller. This planet should help you with your 'Connections' or 'Discover Something New' theme this year. Now it's time to go star trekking once more!

Uranus

Media Texts

You have landed on planet Uranus, which is a planet that was not recognised for a long time, as it is dimmer than others, and harder to see. Here you can find some of the strongest winds in the solar system.

Uranus is the planet of **the media**. The media are the different ways of communicating with other people that we have. Here you will read newspapers, or magazines, or other non-fiction texts, which are used to inform, influence or persuade people.

Some books / texts you could read while visiting this planet:

- 'First News.'
- 'Shoot'
- 'Rugby World'
- 'Bliss'
- 'Flip Side'
- 'Create Your Own Magazine' by Barbara Taylor.

TASKS

1. Look closely at the media text you have read. Try to work out three ways in which it is carefully written and designed to suit the type of person it is intended for. Cut out a page of a similar magazine, and stick it to a backing sheet, labelling the ways in which the page appeals to its audience.
2. Write a short article for the next edition of the magazine of newspaper that you have read. Choose a similar topic, and style of writing, and use the computers to present it in an interesting and suitable way.



Good job, Space Traveller. This planet should help you with your 'Incredible Journeys' or 'Every Picture Tells A Story' theme this year. Now it's time to go star trekking once more!

Saturn

Science Fiction & Fantasy

You have landed on planet Saturn, a planet after which we have named the day 'Saturday.' Its rings are spectacular, made up of ice particles and dust, and it has more than 60 moons orbiting it.

Saturn is the planet of science fiction and fantasy! It's a place of imagination. Here you will read books that stimulate your imagination, and show the magical and inventive side of books and reading.

Some books you could read while visiting this planet:

- The Garth Nix books ('Lirael' and 'Sabriel,' 'Mister Monday')
- The Red Dwarf novels
- 'A Hitchhiker's Guide To The Galaxy' by Douglas Adams
- A Series of Unfortunate Events books, by Lemony Snicket
- The Darren Shan stories.

TASKS

1. Design, illustrate and profile a superhero of your own for the 21st Century. What crime would he fight, or which world problems would she solve? What would be his or her superpower? How would he or she dress, and what would be his or her alter-ego? Who would be his arch-enemy? Label your poster, and ask your teacher to display it..



2. Imagine you're an alien from another planet, who has just paid a visit to Earth on a scouting mission. Write the postcard you would send home, describing all the strange things you saw there. How would you imagine/describe food, or sport, or t.v.?



Good job, Space Traveller. This planet should help you with your 'Connections' or 'Incredible Journeys' theme this year. Unless you're feeling astro-naughty(!) visit another planet!

Jupiter

Poems & Poetry

You have landed on planet Jupiter, the largest planet in the solar system. It is separated from Earth and Mars by an asteroid belt. Which is full of meteors and asteroids that could damage your spaceship, so fly carefully!

Jupiter is the planet of **poetry**. Here you will read books that contain poems written by some famous, or not so famous, authors, who might come from closer to home than the planet Jupiter!

Some books you could read while visiting this planet:

- 'Talking Turkeys' by Benjamin Zephaniah
- 'Hello New' or 'Hello H₂O' by John Agard
- 'Making Friends With Frankenstein' by Colin McNaughton
- 'Miserable Poems' by Ernest Henry
- 'Away With Words' by the pupils of Whitchurch High.

TASKS

1. Which was your favourite poem from the anthology (the book of poems) that you read? Write a letter to congratulate the poet, and explain as many reasons as possible for liking it.
2. Choose one stanza from the poem you most enjoyed reading, and illustrate it in poster form (A4 paper) Write the poet, poem, and book in which you found it. You may use ICT for this if you wish to. Check it with your teacher, and ask for it to be stored in the 'Favourite Poems' booklet that will be kept in the Library.



Good job, Space Traveller. This planet helps you with your 'Connections' or 'Discover Something New' theme. Now strap on that jet-pack and let's 'jet' going for more planets!

Mars

Historical Writing

You have landed on planet Mars, named after the Roman God of War, and sometimes known as 'The Red Planet.' It is the nearest planet to Earth in terms of its years, and is the location of the tallest mountain in the Solar System

Mars is the planet of **historical writing**. Here you will read books that explain events, lives and characters who all lived, or are imagined to have lived, in days and years gone by.

Some books you could read while visiting this planet:

- The 'Horrible Histories' books by Terry Deary.
- The 'Dead Famous' books by Bob Fowke.
- The 'Get A Life' books by Phillip Ardagh.
- 'The Silver Sword' by Ian Serraillier.
- 'The Kingdom By The Sea' by Robert Westall.
- 'The Boy In The Striped Pyjamas,' by John Boyne.
- 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Morpurgo.

TASKS

1. Write an interview you'd like to conduct with a famous person from history. Plan ten probing, interesting questions, and then write what you think his or her answers would be.
2. Create a storyboard of eight boxes, or a cartoon strip, which shows the events of the time in history you've read about.
3. Using Microsoft Publisher's 'Newsletter' wizard, design and write a newspaper front page for a famous day in history, such as the day of the Great Fire of London.



Good job, Space Traveller. This planet should help you with your 'Connections' or 'Discover Something New' theme this year. Here comes the Countdown - time to Blast Off again!



Venus

Destination: A Journey Of Self-discovery

Planet Venus is our bonus planet this year! Not only can you complete tasks on the travel writing you've read – but you can also write about your own journey of self-discovery.

Growing up is all about a journey, from birth to adulthood. You've changed, learned and grown since those early days, learning to talk and walk. Now it's time to think about your own journey through life.

TASKS



- Imagine your life, from birth to now, was a railway journey. What are the stations that you've stopped at? Who are the passengers sharing your carriage? For example, who got on at **Junior School Junction**? When was your carriage at it's happiest? Do you wish you'd stayed longer at **Primary School Station**? Which station are you heading for now, and is the train an express, or a steady steam train that you wish would hurry up? **Write the story of your journey to date.**

- Think about your life to come as a train journey. You're on board **The Onwards Express**. Which stations would you like to visit as you travel through life on your journey of self-discovery? Which passengers would you like to stay with you right through the journey? What will you use as your ticket to get you to the fantastic places you'd like to visit? **Write the story of your trip on The Onwards Express.**

Venus

Travel Writing

You have landed on planet Venus, the hottest planet in our solar system, where a year lasts only 225 days. It's sometimes called the earth's sister planet, though it has no moon and a temperature of 400 degrees celsius

Venus is the planet of **travel**. Here you will read books that explain the places a writer or character has visited, or imagined, during his or her life, and how they write about new sights and new sites.

Some books you could read while visiting this planet:

- 'Journey to Jo'Burg' by Beverley Naidoo
- 'Notes From a Small Island' by Bill Bryson
- 'Coming To England' by Floella Benjamin
- 'Treasure Island' by Robert Louis Stevenson
- 'The Voyage of the Dawn Treader' by CS Lewis.

TASKS

1. Write a postcard home from the destination where the character in this story has travelled. Use the first person, and imagine you are that character, telling thoughts, feelings and discoveries to people back home.
2. Describe the view from the window of your room on the first day when you wake up in a new place. What can you see? Smell? Hear? Feel? Taste?
3. Go to www.kidsonthenet.org.uk/create/nonfic.cfm. Read the stories entitled 'The Beach' & 'Winter' and submit your own!



Good job, Space Traveller. This planet should help you with your 'Incredible Journeys' or 'Every Picture Tells A Story' theme this year. Now it's time to go star trekking once more!

Mercury

Biography and Autobiography


You have landed on planet Mercury, the smallest planet in our solar system, where a year lasts only 88 days. Don't stay too long, or you might get older faster than you think!

Mercury is the planet of **biography, and autobiography**. Here you will read books that explain the lives of the writer, or which are written on behalf of a person who has an interesting personal story to tell.

Some books you could read while visiting this planet:

- 'My Story So Far' by Alan Shearer
- 'Naked' by Kylie Minogue
- 'The Diary of a Young Girl' by Anne Frank
- 'Shadow Life' by Barry Denenberg

TASKS

1. Write a short interview with the subject of the book you've read. Ask ten questions, and give ten answers based on what you have learned.
2. List five reasons why the subject of your auto/biography deserves or deserved to have a book written about his or her life.
3. Use ICT to draw up a profile of the hero of your chosen book, and email it to your teacher to display on Moodle. 

Good job, Space Traveller. This planet should help you with your 'Discover Something New' or 'Every Picture Tells A Story' theme this year. Now move on, live long, and prosper!

