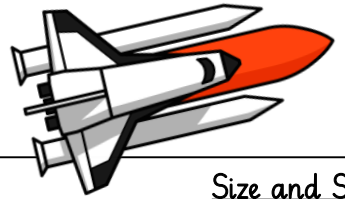
National Space Day



What is National Space Day?

National Space Day is held on the 1st Friday of May each year, to celebrate and shine a spotlight on all things space related.

Tell me all about Space?

Space is big. Really, really, really big. So big in fact that it has to be measured in light years. One light year is how far light travels in one year, around 6 million million miles! Space is estimated to be 93 billion light years in size, so if you set off in your spaceship now it would take you 225,000,000,000,000 (225 trillion) years to reach the end.

We live in the Milky Way Galaxy and rotate around the Sun with seven other planets, plus our Moon, satellites and much more.

Here are some fun activities to celebrate National Space Day. We would love you to share your learning and facts with us either by email or on our school twitter @EllisonPrimary

☺ Enjoy!

Size and Scale of the Universe

It can be really hard to get your head around the size of the Universe. Even the planets within our solar system can be tough to think about. One way is to scale the planets down to the size of fruit. By comparing the fruit we can compare the planets sizes. Before reading below, take this quick quiz to see if you can name all the planets. click here

Fruit Planets

If we imagine the Earth is the size of a cherry tomato, then our nearest neighbour, Mars would be the size of a blueberry. Mercury, the smallest planet would be the size of a peppercorn and Venus would also be a cherry tomato like us. The two big planets in our solar system are Jupiter and Saturn. In this scale Saturn would be a large grapefruit and Jupiter a watermelon! The final two planets are Uranus, the size of an apple and Neptune the size of a lime. Maybe you have some of these fruits at home, or similar sized ones. Try to line them up to get a sense of the scale. Click here to see a picture of the fruit in scale.

Universe Scale

If we look even further out we can see that our planet really is tiny compared to space. Lets pretend that the Earth is now the size of the full stop at the end of this sentence. On this scale the Sun would be the size of a tennis ball. If we shrink the Sun to the size of a full stop, then the whole of our solar system would be about the size of your hand. On this scale the Milky Way galaxy would be the size of the USA. That is just our galaxy, there are another 100 billion galaxies out there. If your head doesn't now hurt well done! You can click here to play with the scale of the universe for yourself. See if you can spot which planet is the same size as the Minecraft world.

Space Facts

There are lots of facts about Space, many of which seem almost unbelievable. Did you know for example that the Moon used to be part of Earth? That there is a planet made of diamonds? That a day on Venus is longer than a year. Or that there is even a planet where it rains glass, sideways! Check out some of the links below to find your favourite facts. Can you test your grown ups with your new found knowledge?

https://www.thefactsite.com/100-space-facts/
https://theplanets.org/space-facts/
https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/science/space/ten-facts-about-space/





Constellations

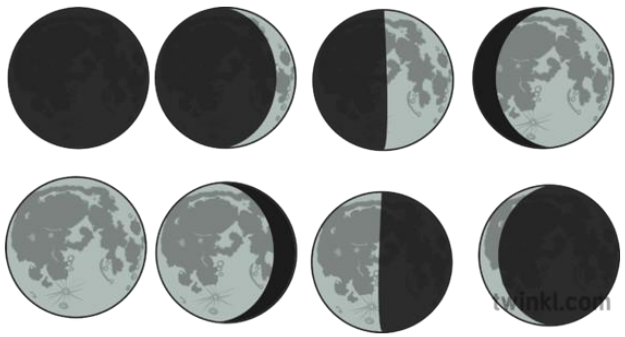
Constellations are groups of stars that form a pattern. If you look in the night sky you may see some of these constellations. Or click here to see what is actually above you right now. Can you design and name your own constellation? Project constellations at home with a torch and by making holes in these printable cards.

Moon Biscuits

At different times of the Moons cycle it looks a different shape to us on Earth. The Moon itself doesn't change so how does this happen? The Moon can only be seen from the Sun shining on it. As the Moon moves in between the Sun and the Earth we can't see the Moon as light isn't shining on the side we can see. As the Moon moves around we can see more and more until we see the full moon. Then we see less and less until the Moon isn't visible again.

Here is a really fun activity to help explain the phases of the Moon and best of all it uses biscuits! You could always paint or chalk the Moons phases too, or why not keep a record by drawing the Moon at night time from your window and keep a Moon record?

Biscuit based Moon activity



Space Song

This song about the solar system is guaranteed to get stuck in your head and is a Mrs Cartlidge favourite.

Click here to view on YouTube.

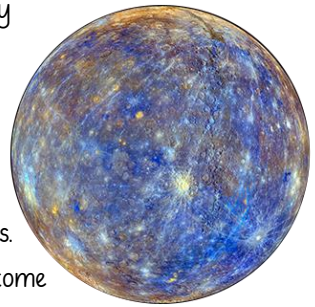


Your Planet

Imagine you have set sail across the universe and have found your very own planet. Write a brief outline of the planet, its name, what grows there, what might live there, how everything looks. Alongside this draw a picture of the planet, maybe you could draw it from space and then a close up showing some of the plants and creatures. Struggling? Use this sheet to help.

Your Adventure

So now you have your planet why not write an adventure based there. Maybe something goes wrong? Maybe you are attacked by Aliens, or maybe you meet some friendly creatures that need your help defending the planet? Really try and use your imagination and think about your characters, did you go there alone or are you with a team of fellow explorers. Illustrations would really help the story come to life too.



Space Activities

NASA is an American space organisation, who research the universe as well as send rockets into space. On the 20th July 1969 they successfully landed the first man on the Moon. Do you know his name? What about the name of the spacecraft or his crew members? Why not spend some time coming up with a Moon landing fact file.

NASA Fun

NASA also produce loads of fun activities to help you to learn all about space. Why not click below to try some out?

Here are 44 activities from NASA.

Solar System

Our solar system is home to some amazing looking planets. Why not try to draw some of them, using different techniques. You could use paint or chalk, cut up fabric or use bits of coloured paper. You can also use the links below to make your own solar system or even a cool looking rocket.

Why not make your own Solar system

You can make your own rocket

You can also explore a explore a virtual solar system here.

Planetarium

A planetarium is a special theatre used to show people stars, planets and the universe. The nearest one to us is at the National Space Centre in Leicester. Currently they have one of there shows on YouTube so you can view it from the comfort of your own home. It really is a special video and a great insight into the start of our universe.

Click here to watch on YouTube.

Alien Dance

Grab a grown up or sibling and get them to join in with you. One of you pretend to be an alien, the other a human. The alien has just landed on Earth? Can you show through dance how you would both react to each other. How does your alien move? What facial expressions do you both make? You could add music too, or maybe play an instrument. Maybe you could make noises, pretending to be the alien speaking. Let your imagination go wild and see where you go.