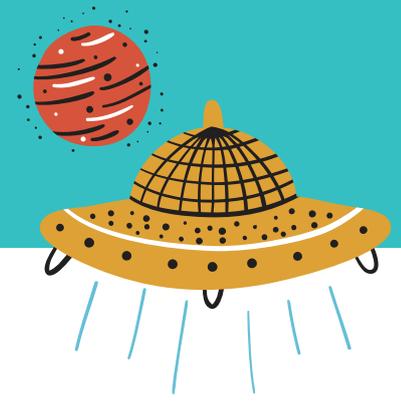


SPACE

Home Learning Pack

Years 3, 4, 5 & 6



Included in this pack:

- Reading practice
Year 3 / 4 – Planet Earth
Year 5/6 – Neptune
- Writing Task – planet fact files
- Shadow investigation
- Constellations
- Night Sky Journal

This home learning pack is designed for children in years 3 to 6 (ages 8–11) to complete, with some adult support where possible, over a week. This pack contains fun, engaging opportunities to develop and practise reading and writing skills that can be completed within a child's home environment, based around the topic of 'Space'. Activity sheets are provided – but if you do not have access to a printer, all activities could be completed using any paper or writing books that you have at home.

For teachers' reference, the pack covers these key curricular skills:

Reading

- to apply their growing knowledge of root words, prefixes and suffixes, to read aloud and to understand the meaning of new words that they meet;
- to check that a text makes sense to them, answering questions including using inference.

Writing

- to compose and rehearse sentences orally before writing; write non-fiction (fact files); (years 3/4)
- to identify the audience and purpose for writing; to use organisation devices (bullet points) to organise writing (years 5/6).

Science

- to make careful and systematic observations (year 3/4);
- to find patterns in the way that the size of shadows change (year 4);
- to take accurate measurements, with increasing accuracy (year 5/6);
- to describe the movement of the Earth, and other planets, relative to the Sun (year 5).

A week's worth of activities are described on the next page, with helpful information for adults explaining how to use these resources with your child. They are designed to be as fun, practical and creative as possible – nurturing children's natural curiosity, developing their literacy skills and keeping learning lively!

Activities

Reading Practice

– Year 3/4: Planet Earth

– Year 5/6: Neptune

Ask your child to read the **fact file about a planet** for their year group, and discuss what it is about. Ask them to identify any words that they are unsure of and find out the meanings of these.

Your child should then answer the questions about the text, referring back to the fact file to help them where needed.

Writing task – Planet Fact Files

Read the **planet fact files** for Earth and Neptune. Look at the **poster of the planets** included in the pack and ask your child which planet they would like to research. They can complete the **fact file worksheet** using books and the internet to find information.

Your child may choose to research more than one planet – in fact, they could create their very own book of our Solar System!

Shadow investigation

Investigate how shadows change throughout the day using our **investigation**. Follow the instructions to set up your own shadow experiment using a pencil or any other object that you have that will create a shadow that is easy to draw around. Your child can then observe and record the length of the shadows and how they change over the course of a day. They will observe that shadows are shorter in the middle of the day (as the sun is higher in the sky) and that they move as the Earth rotates.

Use this as inspiration to investigate further how the Earth moves in relation to the Sun.

Constellations

Learn about the constellations in the night sky. Explain to your child what a constellation is (there is a brief description on the **worksheet**) and try and work out the names of some examples of constellations.

Using the **constellation cards and instructions**, make the constellations shine in your own home using card and a torch.

Night Sky Journal

Encourage your child to observe what they can see in the night sky and record it in the **journal**. They can draw the shape of the Moon each day (remembering that sometimes there is no Moon) and record any stars, planets or constellations that they can see, using books or the internet to help identify these.

Other Activities

- Read stories or poems about space. You could try and read examples of science fiction stories together.
- Watch TV programs or films about space or science fiction.
- Find out about people who have visited the moon or been in space (Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Tim Peake) and write a report about their mission. There are videos and information available online.
- Create a picture of some the planets, with paints, pens or collage.
- Create your own Solar System, finding out about different planets' sizes and distances from the Sun. You could draw the planets, or create models using papier mache or play dough.
- Listen to music inspired by the idea of space. Find 'The Planet Suite' by Holst or more modern music like 'Space Oddity' and 'Starman' by David Bowie. How is the music describing space?
- Research the constellations. Find out about how they got their names and the shapes/images that they represent. Does your child think that they look like the image after which it is named?
- Try some star gazing. On a clear night, look up at the night sky and see if you can spot and name some stars and constellations. if you are lucky, you may actually see a planet too.