



Year Groups: Year 3-6

Length: 21 mins

Starting Positions: Sit in two long lines, as if on bus (in a crocodile).

Learning Intentions:

To know about:

- Gravity (there's less on Mars; its effect on us as we try to leave the earth)
- Moons orbiting their planets (earth's moon and Mars' moons)
- Human space-travel

Synopsis:

- Neil Armstrong and Valentina Tereshkova take you on a tour of NASA.
- You look round a space shuttle, but get trapped on it with your class.
- Valentina and a furious Neil guide you through your 300 day journey to Mars.
- Space rubble damages the oxygen tank. You repair the puncture.
- You exercise so your muscles don't waste away
- On Mars you look for signs of life, and discover water.
- A dust storm comes so you rush back to the space shuttle and return home.
- NASA tell you to ignore a meteorite that's headed for London.
- You ignore them and push the meteorite off course with your remaining rocket blaster.
- The British Prime Minister invites you to 10 Downing Street.

Characters:

- **Class teacher**
- **Neil Armstrong** – American, the first man on the moon in 1969, aboard Apollo 11
- **Valentina Tereshkova** - Russian astronaut and the first woman to fly in Space
- **Prime Minister's Secretary**

Locations:

- **NASA** – NASA stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- **Space Shuttle** – reusable, crewed spacecraft used between 1981 – 2011.
- **Mars** – the fourth planet from the Sun and the second smallest in the Solar System.

Glossary:

- **Mission Control** - the team back on earth (in Florida) who help guide the astronauts
- **T minus** - 'T' is the time at which the shuttle will take-off. T minus 10 means 10 seconds til take off.
- **Oxygen tank** - there is no oxygen in space; shuttles carried tanks so that astronauts could breathe
- **Gravity** - anything with mass has gravity. The bigger the mass, the bigger the gravity. Gravity pulls other things towards that object: this is why it's hard to get off the earth!
- **Orbit** - an orbit is the path of one body in space around another (e.g. the earth around the sun)
- **Deimos & Phobos** - the two moons of Mars, named after characters from Greek myth
- **Meteorite** - debris (perhaps from a larger asteroid) that impacts on the earth's surface. Strictly speaking, before it hits the earth it's a 'meteoroid'.

Discussion:

Story & Factual

- Which astronauts did you meet at NASA? What are they most famous for?
- How many days does it take to travel to Mars?
- Why did you have to wear a space suit when you left the shuttle?
- How many moons does Mars have? Do you know what they are called? (*Phobos and Deimos*)
- Does our moon – and Mars' moons – stay in the same place?
- How did your body feel when you were on Mars? Why did you feel lighter?
- What food did you eat in space?

PSHE & Philosophical

- Why might humans try to live on other planets? Would you like to live on Mars?
- Richard Branson has set up Virgin Galactic for space tourism. What do you think about Space tourism?
- Space travel costs a lot of money, which could otherwise be spent on healthcare, schools and housing. Do you think it is worth spending money on?
- Why is it important for humans to learn about Space?
- Do you think there may be other life forms in Space?
- Did you vote to leave the meteorite or blast it off course? Why?

Resources:

You'll find these follow up resources on your shared drive:

- **Literacy Resources** – Reading Comprehension/Text Analysis, 3x SPAG exercises, Poem/Short writing exercise, Formal Prose, Creative Writing, Spelling Test
- **Photo Storyboard** – order the images from the story
- **Quick Quiz** – re-cap key facts
- **Or try some recount, report or creative writing ideas of your own!**