

## International Day of Human Space Flight

### Topic

International Day of Human Space Flight (12 April)

### Aims

All learners will:

- celebrate International Day of Human Space Flight
- practise question forms and saying numbers
- learn about some of the key moments in international space exploration
- collaboratively make a poster

Some learners will:

- use English creatively.

### Age group and level

Young learners aged between 9 and 12, CEFR level A2 and above / Key Stage 2 (older pupils)

### Time

50–60 minutes

### Materials

Space worksheet A (1 per pair)

Space worksheet B (1 per pair)

Large sheet of paper or card

coloured pencils or crayons

### Introduction

The United Nations have declared 12 April as being the International Day of Human Space Flight. Former Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said 'I am confident that the International Day of Human Space Flight will remind us of our common humanity and our need to work together to conquer shared challenges. I hope it will also inspire young people in particular to pursue their dreams and move the world towards new frontiers of knowledge and understanding.'

In this lesson, pupils mirror Ban Ki-moon's ideas. They start the lesson by collaboratively taking on a challenge. They finish by moving towards new frontiers of knowledge and understanding.

First, learners discover some key facts and figures about space exploration. This is a pair-work *jigsaw reading* activity. Pupils also practise both question forms and saying numbers. Then, in groups, they use the information they have learnt to make classroom posters celebrating human achievements in space.

## Procedure

<b>Before the lesson</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Download and make copies of the worksheets you need for the lesson.</li> <li>• Ensure the poster-making materials are easily accessible for all groups so learners don't have to move around the classroom.</li> <li>• Identify an area where learners can display their posters.</li> </ul>
<b>1. Warmer/lead-in (10 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Write these three facts on the board:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <i>Europeans first went into space in _____.</i></li> <li>2. <i>_____ astronauts have travelled to the moon.</i></li> <li>3. <i>The distance to the moon is more than _____ kilometres.</i></li> </ol> </li> <li>• Explain that you have the missing information. If learners ask the correct questions, you will give them the answers. Tell the class to think of the questions they need to ask in order to obtain the missing information.</li> <li>• Learners put their hands up to suggest questions. When a learner offers a correct question form, give them the answer and complete the sentences with the missing number.</li> <li>• Write the correct questions on the board highlighting the key words in bold.             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>When did</b> <i>Europeans first go into space? (1978)</i></li> <li>2. <b>How many</b> <i>astronauts have travelled to the moon? (20)</i></li> <li>3. <b>How far</b> <i>is (it to) the moon? or What is the distance to the moon? (350,000km)</i></li> </ol> </li> </ul>
<b>2. Information gap activity (10 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Give half the class a copy of <i>worksheet A</i> and the other half a copy of <i>worksheet B</i>.</li> <li>• Pupils work together in small groups of all As and all Bs. They look at their gapped sentences and think about the questions they need to ask in order to find out the missing information – a name, a number or a date. Learners can make a note of their questions.</li> <li>• Monitor the groups and help or prompt if necessary.</li> </ul>

<b>3. Information exchange (10 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put learners into pairs, A and B. Explain that they must not show their partner their worksheet. They take turns to ask and answer questions and complete the gaps in their worksheet with all the missing information. Demonstrate the first question with one learner.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Making a poster (20 minutes)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put learners into small groups to make a poster celebrating the International Day of Human Space Flight. Write these instructions on the board for learners to follow. Check learners understand what they have to do. Give timings for each step:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PLAN (2 minutes) Decide on the group roles (writer, designer, facilitator, editor, timekeeper, etc.). In larger mixed-ability classes, you may need to assign roles.</li> <li>PREPARE (5 minutes)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Choose a heading for your poster</li> <li>Choose some interesting facts to include.</li> <li>Find or draw some pictures to illustrate your poster.</li> <li>Decide where you want the texts and where you want the pictures.</li> </ul> </li> <li>MAKE (10 minutes)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make your poster.</li> </ul> </li> <li>DISPLAY (3 minutes)                 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put your poster on the wall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Optional extras</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage learners to say what they like about each group's poster</li> <li>Groups could present their posters. (This could be done in the following lesson.)</li> <li>Learners watch the 'Our colourful world' story. <a href="https://youtu.be/lxfaVWsHQEM?si=1cP9TVtCVyt4Frcs">https://youtu.be/lxfaVWsHQEM?si=1cP9TVtCVyt4Frcs</a></li> </ul>

### Contributed by

Katherine Bilborough, edited by Suzanne Mordue