

Learning Theme Title: Space

Overview

This theme is linked to the science topic of **Earth and Beyond** in which children learn about: the movement of the Earth and how this causes night and day as well as seasons; the movement of the moon and why the moon changes shape; the shape of the planets and the scientific evidence for their spherical shape. The **historical focus** looks at the heliocentric and geocentric theories of our solar system as well as looking at the impact of the space race on space exploration. In **art**, the children develop their use of chalk pastels and ability to create 3D effects on paper to create their own planets. In **design and technology**, the focus is on textiles and stitching. Here the children are tasked to create a felt star decorated with stitches to improve Barnes Bear's bedroom.

Content

- Research how key figures developed our understanding of space (Ptolemy, Copernicus, Galileo)
- Create a time line of the Space Race
- Investigate a key event – the moon landing – through the use of a variety of historical sources
- Trip to the Royal Observatory Greenwich for a workshop on the movement of the Earth and Moon and a show in the planetarium about our closest neighbours in space
- Trip to the Science Museum for a talk by an astronaut actor (Yuri Gagarin, Neil Armstrong or Gene Cernan) as well as a 3D cinema viewing of the construction of the International Space Station.
- Use chalk pastels to create a planet
- Create a star using felt and decorative stitching for Barnes Bear's bedroom

Key areas of learning (knowledge and skills)

- Investigate the movement of the Earth and the Moon
- Explain how we experience night and day
- Explain why we experience seasons
- Explain why the Moon appears to change shape as it orbits Earth
- Explain how we know that the Earth is spherical
- Appreciate the impact of certain historical figures on our understanding of space
- Understand that history can be interpreted in different ways with people holding contrasting viewpoints
- Understand the value of historical sources when investigating an event
- Learn to blend and make a range of other marks with chalk pastels
- Develop the ability to create a 3D effect in a 2D drawing
- Know how to thread a needle, sew a button, create a range of stitches
- Consider the use of colour when designing a textile product

