IN BRIEF

Katherine Counts! is the inspiring tale of a young girl who loves maths and learning. This pack is filled with facts and activities about space travel and the Apollo Program, which Katherine worked on!



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- The stories in this month's magazine contain some words that your students might not know. Don't worry – the **Storytime Glossary** is here to help! Get the children to look up the meanings of any terms they aren't familiar with. For an extra challenge, ask them to use these new words in a sentence...

- Travelling into space had been a dream for humans for a long time, but we only ventured beyond our planet for the first time about seventy years ago. The **Class Discussion Sheet** was created to start a conversation about why humans want to go into space, where we have been, and where we might go in the future.

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** contains useful words called *prepositions*, which tell us where things are and when events happen. Can your pupils spot them all? Ask students to come up with other examples!

- The **Story Sequencing Sheet** is a useful activity for testing students' comprehension of a story. Can they number the events from Katherine's tale from one to eleven to show the order in which they should be read? Remember, kids should feel free to reread the story to check when certain events occurred.

- The **Storyboard** sheet gives pupils a chance to give their own account of what happened to Katherine. What do they think are the key events that need to be mentioned? The illustrations on the page will remind them about the tale.

Continued on page 2...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- Katherine Coleman was a very special girl, and this month's story gives readers a chance to get to know her. The **Character Sheet** has questions about what she was like, what she might have been good at, and what she might have enjoyed doing. Students should use their imaginations to come up with answers.

- There are certain words that pupils should know when talking about space, and you can find them on the **Space Vocabulary** page. Can pupils match each word with the correct definition? After your students have tried to complete the quiz, why not discuss the answers with the class? This is a chance to go into more detail about things like orbits and what we might find in our solar system.

- The **A Postcard from Space** activity gives students an opportunity to use their writing skills *and* their creativity! They should imagine that they have visited a distant moon or planet and write a postcard to tell their friends and family what it is like. Pupils should also colour in the picture on the postcard and add extra details to customize it!

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- The **Cosmic Timeline!** sheet shows major milestones in humankind's exploration of space. Ask pupils what events they think were particularly important and why! Also, what achievements do they think will be added in future?

- The Apollo 11 Moon landing was possibly the greatest achievement of the 'Space Race' between the USA and the USSR – and Katherine helped to make it happen! For the **Moon Landing News Report** activity, we recommend that you either tell your pupils about the event or get them to research it and then fill in the sheet. It has useful prompts that tell students what they should add in each section.

- There are eight statements about space travel on the **Science Fact or Science Fiction?** page, but only *some* of them are true. Can your pupils work out or guess which are which? After they have done this activity, why not ask pupils what they got for each question and discuss the correct answers?

Continued on page 3...

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2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- Astronauts face all kinds of challenges when they go into space! The **Life in Space!** page has questions about surviving in orbit – it will inspire students to think about the problems space travellers face!

- The Saturn V was a multi-section rocket that carried astronauts all the way to the Moon! Students should cut out the parts on the **Build a Rocket!** sheet and figure out how they all fit together. For extra fun, they can also colour in the rocket and add cool logos and symbols, too.

3. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- Katherine used her amazing mathematics skills to help calculate how to get rockets into space, and the **Space Maths!** page has some cosmically-themed sums for students to work on. Don't worry, they're not as complicated as the equations used to get astronauts to the Moon and back!

4. P.E. LESSON IDEA

- At NASA, Katherine calculated the routes that rockets should take when travelling in space. The **Code Like Katherine!** page has a fun activity that combines logic and instructions with physical activity. You will need an area on a playground, a spot marked as the 'launch pad', and the instructions students should follow to get to the 'Moon'. Once they have done this, they can create their own instructions to get to other planets as well.

5. ART LESSON IDEA

- What would you wear if you went into space? Colour in the spacesuit on the **Out-of-this-World Fashion** sheet – and don't forget to add a logo to the flag. If you feel extra-adventurous, draw in a space-themed background, too.

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Don't recognise a word or phrase in a story? Look up its meaning here!

Super-Sized Sid (Page 6)

- **Shoot some hoops:** practise scoring points in basketball by shooting baskets
- **Trot:** move faster than a walk but slower than a run
- **Dribbling:** bouncing a basketball while running or walking
- **Smoothie:** drink made by blending fruit or other foods with milk or yoghurt
- **Superfoods:** foods that are very healthy and nutritious
- **Gloopy:** thick and hard to pour
- **Cramped:** small and hard to fit into
- **Frisbees:** round flat toys for throwing
- **Matchstick:** small, thin piece of wood
- **Slam-dunk:** move where a player jumps up and slams a ball into the basket
- **Sore:** a bit painful

The Hare and the Hound (Page 13)

- **Hound:** kind of hunting dog
- **Fragrance:** nice smell
- **Tingled:** had a tickly feeling
- **Recognised:** realised what something was
- **Scent:** smell
- **Cheeky:** not polite, but in a funny way
- **Burrow:** home dug in the ground
- **Sprinted:** ran at full speed
- **Clumps:** groups
- **Silvery:** looking shiny like silver
- **Belly-flopped:** dived and landed belly-first
- **Exhausted:** extremely tired
- **Tremble:** shake

Dolly's Dreams (Page 16)

- **Telescope:** device for helping a person to see distant things clearly
- **Southern Right Whale:** kind of rare whale
- **Rarest:** most uncommon
- **Chanted:** said something as a group, over and over
- **Doze off:** fall asleep
- **Pedalling:** making her bike move by turning the pedals
- **Transformed:** changed
- **Chunky:** thick and heavy
- **Wrinkly:** with wrinkles on
- **Drowsily:** in a tired way

The Morning Star (Page 18)

- **Eaglehawk:** kind of bird found in Australia
- **Outback:** wilderness areas of Australia
- **Possum:** kind of marsupial that lives in trees
- **Snoozing:** sleeping
- **Soar:** fly very high
- **Goannas:** large Australian lizards
- **Wallabies:** animals like small kangaroos
- **Billabong:** type of pond
- **Frilled lizard:** kind of lizard with ruff of skin around its neck
- **Frustration:** anger at not being able to do something
- **Bilby:** rabbit-like marsupial
- **Singed:** slightly burned
- **Glided:** moved through the air without flapping her wings

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

2 OF 2

The Hot-Headed Lion (Page 22)

- **Merchant:** person who sells things
- **Pearls:** round white precious objects made by oysters
- **Sapphires:** blue gemstones
- **Blooming:** producing flowers
- **Manor house:** large, impressive house
- **Amazingly:** in a surprising way
- **Terrifying:** very frightening
- **Growl:** angry sound
- **Curtseyed:** bent down slightly to show respect
- **Gorgeous:** very beautiful
- **Sorceress:** female magician
- **Waltzed:** did a kind of dance called a waltz
- **Boulder:** very large rock
- **Creak:** make a groaning noise
- **Resentment:** feeling of bitterness about something that happened

The Merry Dancers (Page 30)

- **Courageous:** brave
- **Inhabited:** lived in
- **Picts:** ancient people from Scotland
- **Cattle:** cows
- **Shepherd:** person who guards sheep
- **Flock:** herd of sheep
- **Heather:** grasslike plant
- **Gorse:** spiky yellow-flowered plant
- **Stout:** wide and strong
- **Shattered:** broke into many pieces
- **Surrender:** give up
- **Shimmered:** shining with a wavering light

Katherine Counts! (Page 35)

- **Timber:** wood which has been cut
- **Porch:** covered area in front of building
- **Destination:** place she was going to
- **Shyly:** in a shy way
- **Opportunities:** chances to get a good job
- **Shingles:** kind of roof covering
- **Graduated:** completed schooling
- **University:** place for advanced learning
- **Elegant:** simple but clever
- **Geometry:** maths relating to the distance, shape, size and position of things
- **Awhirl:** spinning
- **Mathematician:** person who does advanced maths
- **Aeronautics:** the study of flight
- **Autobiography:** a book somebody writes about their own life

The Seven Foals (Page 40)

- **Foals:** young horses
- **Frolicking:** running in a playful way
- **Chestnut:** reddish-brown-coloured
- **Snagged:** caught
- **Brambles:** prickly bushes
- **Wheedled:** said in a cunning way
- **Rusty:** covered with rust
- **Whinnied:** made a high-pitched horse noise
- **Fine:** nice and high quality
- **Curse:** affected by harmful magic
- **Perseverance:** not giving up
- **Merrily:** in a happy way

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

space exploration! In the last few decades, astronauts have left Earth behind and travelled into space. It's time to discuss these amazing journeys!

1. Why do you think humans want to explore space?

2. How do people get into space? What do they need to survive when they get into orbit?

3. Where in space have humans journeyed to? What things do they do when they get to their destinations?

4. Where do you think space travellers might go to in the near future?

WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO?

What planet, moon or other place would you like to visit if you were an astronaut?

I would go to: _____

It would be interesting because: _____

_____

The challenges I would have to deal with when I got there are: _____

_____

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

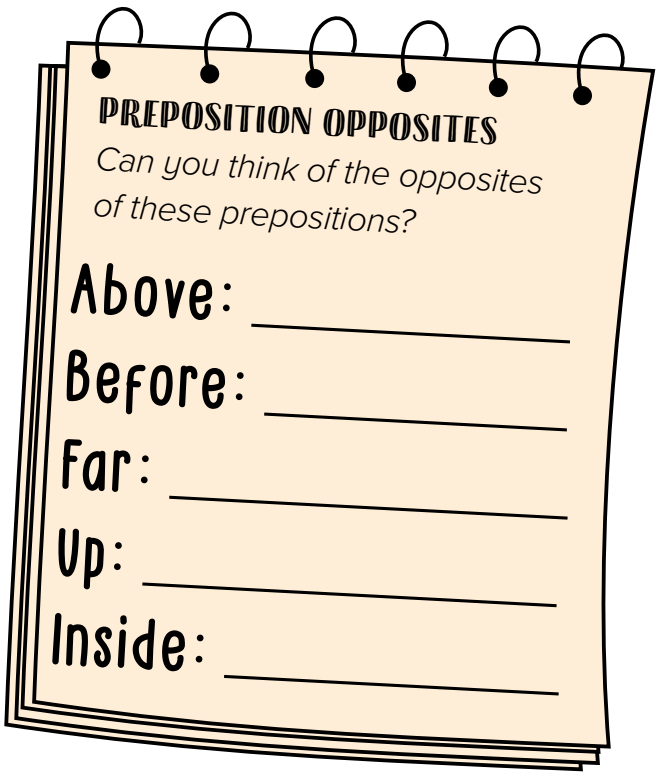
This extract is full of *prepositions*! Spot them all, plus a *proper noun*...

> Katherine went out of the door and took four steps across the porch, eight steps down the front stairs and five steps to the pavement.
>
> She walked one hundred yards up the hill and across the train tracks. After turning left at the corner, the little girl walked for one block until she reached a dirt path. After another one hundred feet, she reached her destination: Mary McLeod Bethune Grade School.

1. A *preposition* is a word that can be used to tell us where something is or where it is going. There are four prepositions in the first sentence – can you work out what they are?

2. In the third sentence there is another preposition that tells us *when* Katherine walked for one block. What is it?

3. A *proper noun* is the name of a person or thing. They are often spelled with capital letters at the beginning. What are the two proper nouns in this extract?



ANSWERS: 1. *Out, across, down* and *to*. 2. *After*. 3. *Katherine* and *Mary McLeod Bethune Grade School*.
Preposition Opposites: *Below, after, near, down, outside*.

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

How well do you know Katherine's story? Number the eleven sections of her tale below in the order in which they should be read!

When she was four, the girl noticed that her brother Horace was having difficulty with his maths homework. ☐

The West Virginia Colored Institute was made up of impressive red brick buildings, and it was filled with students who were keen to learn! ☐

Katherine did very well at school and was allowed to skip several years. Her parents were very proud of her. ☐

The professor gave Katherine lessons in advanced mathematics, including how to calculate the movement of objects in space! ☐

Katherine decided to help him! She walked all the way to Horace's school, and his teacher let the little girl teach her brother. ☐

Katherine studied hard at the Institute and graduated early! She wanted to start university, but she wasn't sure what to study. ☐

The problem was, the high school in Katherine's town would not accept African American students like her and her siblings. ☐

While she was trying to make up her mind, Professor Claytor came up to her and said she had to do maths as she was good at it. ☐

Katherine loved numbers and counted everything she could – including forks, plates, spoons, brothers and sisters! ☐

That was why Katherine's parents packed up all their things and moved the family over the mountains to a school in West Virginia. ☐

The teacher was impressed by how smart Katherine was. She went to see the girl's mother and said that she should start school early. ☐

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STORYBOARD

Tell Katherine's amazing story in your own words. The pictures below will remind you about what happened to her...

1



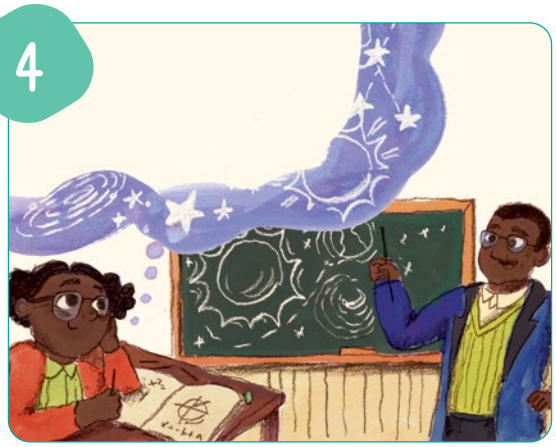
2



3



4



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CHARACTER SHEET: KATHERINE



In this month's story, you found out about a little girl who helped change the world! See if you can answer the questions about what she was like as a person...

What three words would you choose to describe Katherine?

_____

_____

What other jobs might Katherine have been good at?

_____

_____

_____

Which people helped Katherine to make the most of her abilities?

_____

_____

What title would you give to a book about her life? Draw a book cover with the title here!

What do you think Katherine might have liked to do as a hobby?

_____

_____

What do you think made Katherine curious to learn more about space?

_____

_____

_____

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SPACE VOCABULARY

Can you work out which definition goes with each word below?

A. ORBIT

B. PLANET

C. ATMOSPHERE

D. GRAVITY

E. STAR

F. MOON

G. SOLAR SYSTEM

H. COMET

I. ASTEROID

J. METEORITE

1 A huge ball of gas in space. Gravity turns its hydrogen gas into helium, which produces light and heat!

2 The curved path that a planet, satellite or spacecraft follows as it circles around another object in space.

3 A large body in space that orbits the Sun or another star.

4 A natural object in space that orbits around another natural object. Planets, asteroids and moons can all have them!

5 A rock floating in space.

6 An asteroid that hits a planet.

7 The force that pulls objects towards other objects in space.

8 An icy rock that lets off gas and dust when it comes close to a star. Often has a long orbit through a solar system.

9 A star and all of the things that orbit it, including planets, their moons, asteroids and comets.

10 The gas around a planet, held in place by gravity.

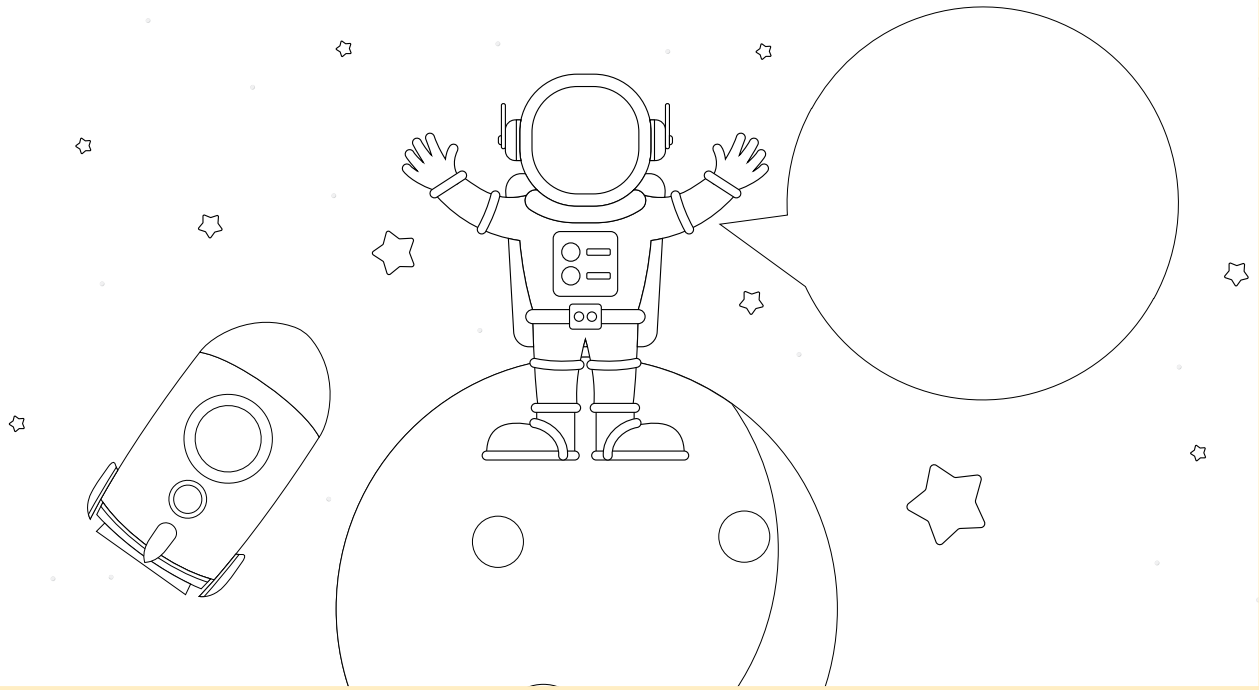
ANSWERS: A. 2, B. 3, C. 10, D. 7, E. 1, F. 4, G. 9, H. 8, I. 5, J. 6.

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A POSTCARD FROM SPACE

Imagine that you have visited another world! What message would you send?

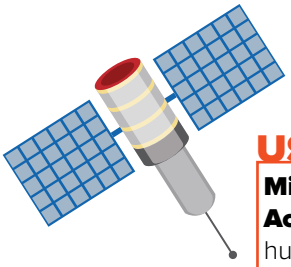


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COSMIC TIMELINE!

In the past few decades, we humans have taken our first steps into space. Here is a timeline of our achievements in space exploration!



USSR
Mission: Sputinik 1
Achievement: First human-made satellite launched into orbit.

1957

USSR
Mission: Sputnik 2
Achievement: Laika the dog becomes the first animal to go into orbit.

1957

USSR
Mission: Vostok 1
Achievement: Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human being in orbit.

1961

USSR
Mission: Vostok 6
Achievement: Valentina Tereshkova becomes the first woman in orbit.

1963

USA
Mission: FFL-01
Achievement: The first Earth animals are sent into space – they are fruit flies!

1946

USSR
Mission: Voskhod 2
Achievement: Alexei Leonov makes the first spacewalk.

1965



GERMANY
Mission: MW 18014
Achievement: A V2 rocket becomes the first man-made object in orbit.

1942

USA
Mission: Apollo 11
Achievement: Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the Moon.

1969

1970



USSR
Mission: Salyut 1
Achievement: First crewed space station launched into space.

1971

1970

USSR
Mission: Lunokhod 1
Achievement: First remote-controlled lunar rover landed on the Moon.

USSR
Mission: Venera 7
Achievement: First probe to successfully make a soft landing on another planet, Venus.

USA
Mission: Viking 1
Achievement: First remote-controlled robot rover to land safely on Mars.

1976

USA
Mission:
Voyager 1
Achievement:
The Voyager 1 probe becomes the first man-made object to leave our solar system.

2012

USA/RUSSIA
Mission: A1/R
Achievement: Launch of the first part of the International Space Station, the largest space station built so far.

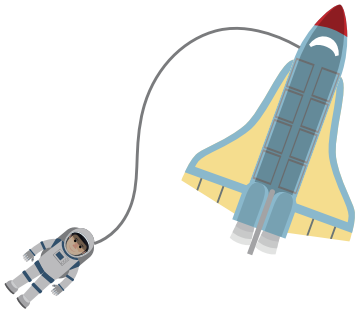
1997

1998

USA
Mission: Voyager 2
Achievement: First probe launched into the outer solar system.

1977

1981



USA
Mission: STS 1
Achievement:
Launch of the Space Shuttle Columbia, the first reusable space vehicle.

USA
Mission: Sojourner 1
Achievement: First rover to safely land on Mars and send back usable photos and data.

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MOON LANDING NEWS REPORT

Write a news report about the Apollo 11 Moon landing! Research this exciting mission and then complete the story below.

Headline:

On _____ (date), _____ (names) made history by _____ (what they did) on the _____ (place).

They travelled aboard _____ (name of rocket) and used _____ (name of Lunar Module) to land. This mission was important because _____

_____

_____.

Millions of people watched the event and felt _____ (reaction). This event is remembered today because _____

_____

_____

_____.

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SCIENCE FACT OR SCIENCE FICTION?

Which of the 'facts' below are true, and which are false?

1. Astronauts have landed on Mars.
   ☐ FACT
   ☐ FICTION

2. Astronauts need a lot of training before they go into space.
   ☐ FACT
   ☐ FICTION

3. There's no gravity in space, which is why astronauts float around.
   ☐ FACT
   ☐ FICTION

4. Dogs, monkeys and even spiders have been sent into space.
   ☐ FACT
   ☐ FICTION

5. You can see the Great Wall of China from space.
   ☐ FACT
   ☐ FICTION

6. The Space Race was a competition between the United States and Japan.
   ☐ FACT
   ☐ FICTION

7. A human would explode in space without a spacesuit.
   ☐ FACT ☐ FICTION

8. The Space Race helped develop technologies we use today, like GPS.
   ☐ FACT ☐ FICTION

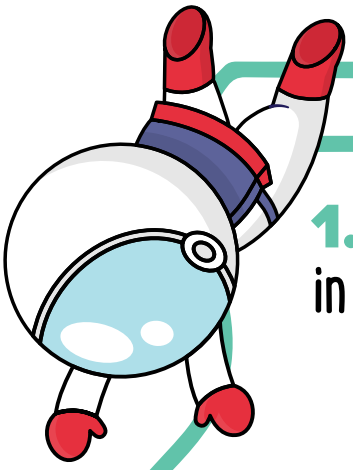
ANSWERS: 1. FICTION. 2. FACT. 3. FACT. 4. FACT. 5. FICTION. 6. FICTION. 7. FICTION. 8. FACT.

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LIFE IN SPACE!

When astronauts go into space, they have to deal with a lot of problems! How do you think they cope with the things listed below? Use each question as a conversation-starter and then see who got the most answers right!



1. There's no air in space! How do astronauts breathe?

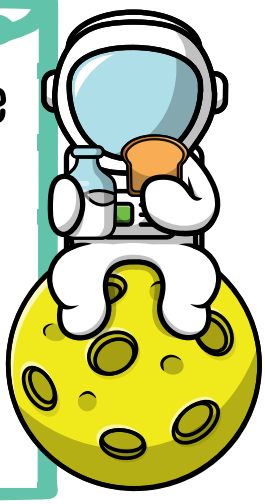
2. There's no gravity in space. How can they go to sleep without floating around?

3. How do people get exercise in space? Is it important for them to keep fit?

4. How can they go to the toilet without making a mess?

5. What kind of food do people eat in space?

6. Liquid in space tends to float around in drops. How can astronauts drink in orbit?



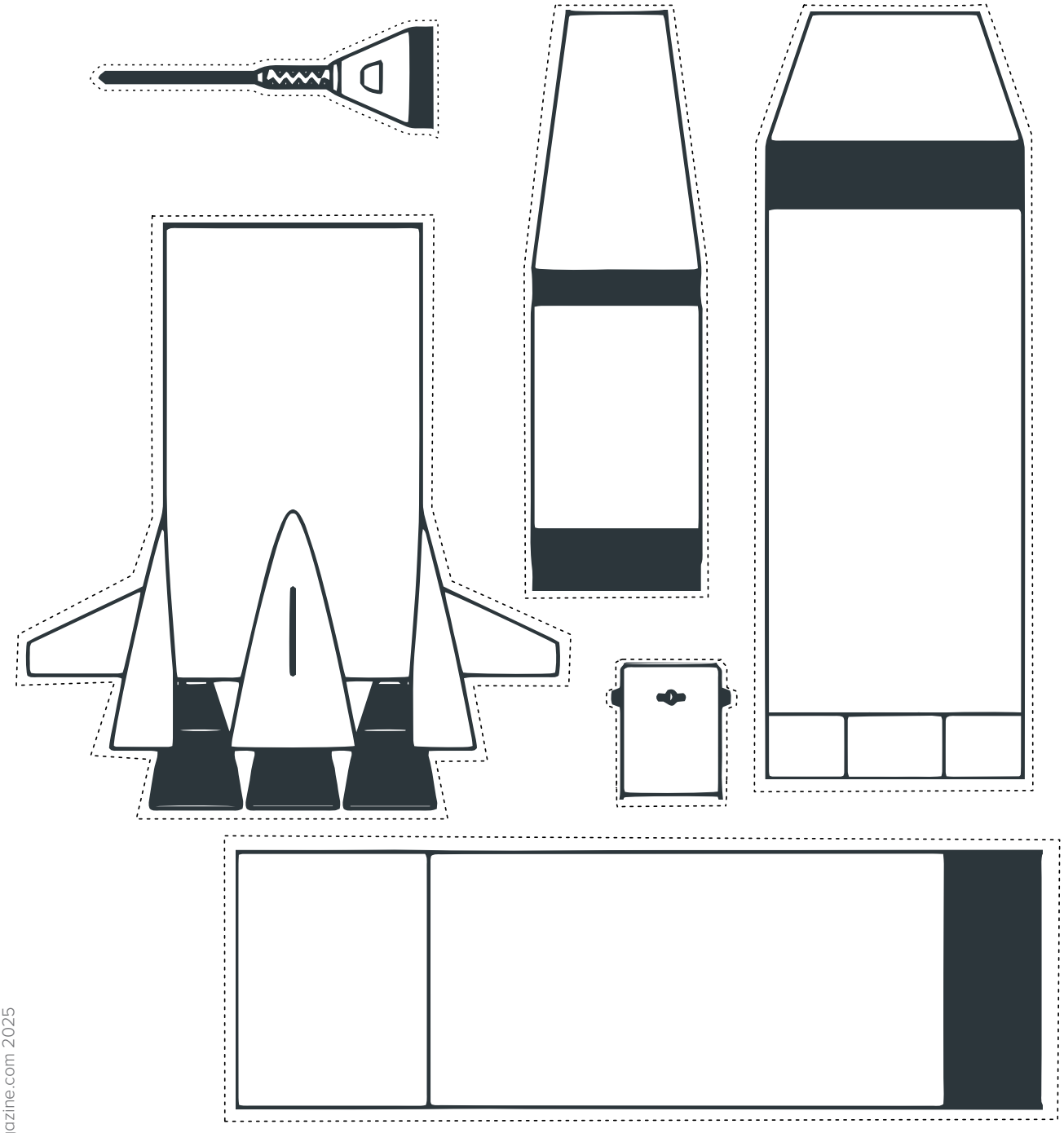
ANSWERS: 1. They have to bring their own air supply... in a spacecraft or spacesuit! 2. They strap themselves into special sleeping bags to sleep. 3. They exercise on special treadmills and attach themselves to them with rubber straps. Exercising is important to stop astronauts' muscles from getting weak in zero-gravity. 4. They use a special 'vacuum toilet' that sucks away the wee and poo. 5. Astronauts dine on a variety of foods that are easy to eat without causing messy crumbs. 6. Astronauts drink liquids from sealed packages using straws.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

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BUILD A ROCKET!

The Saturn V rocket that carried humans to the Moon was made up of many different parts! Cut out the sections of the rocket below and work out how they all fit together. You can also colour in your rocket!

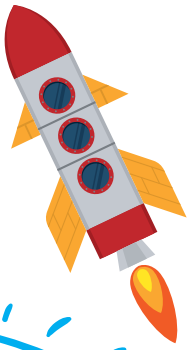


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ANSWER: It should look like this!

SPACE MATHS!

Calculations are very important for space missions!
Can you answer all of the questions below?



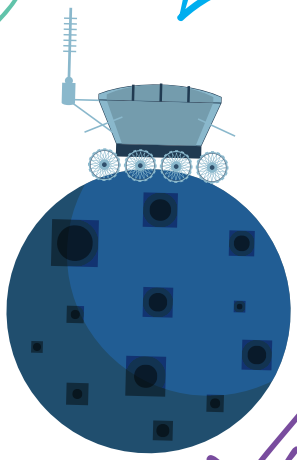


A. A rocket launches after **counting down from 10**. If the **countdown is at 7**, how many more numbers are left until the rocket launches?

_____

B. A rocket needs **12 parts** to be fully built. If the engineers add **3 parts each day**, how many days will they need to build it?

_____



C. A spacecraft travels at **40,000 km per hour**. How far does it travel in **5 hours**?

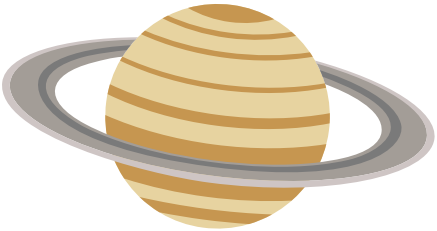
_____

D. A spacecraft is carrying **50 litres of water**. If the astronauts use **15 litres** on the first day and **18 litres** on the second day, how much water is left?

_____

E. A lunar rover can carry **3 samples of moon rock at a time**. If astronauts have to collect **21 moon rocks**, how many trips does the rover need to make?

_____



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ANSWERS: A. 6. B. 4. C. 200,000 km. D. 17 litres. E. 7.

NAME _____ CLASS _____

CODE LIKE KATHERINE!

Learn how Katherine used mathematical 'codes' to guide spacecraft by creating and following simple step-by-step sequences.

TRY OUT THE PRE-MADE CODE!

Below is a sequence of steps to follow. Start at your 'Launch Pad' (a chosen spot in the playground) and follow the 'flight path' step by step to reach the 'Moon'.

- **Step 1:** Take 3 steps forward.
- **Step 2:** Turn right and take 2 steps.
- **Step 3:** Jump forward 1 step.
- **Step 4:** Turn left and take 4 steps.
- **Step 5:** Wave your arms – you've landed on the 'Moon'!
- **Challenge:** After you're reached the 'Moon', try and get back to 'Earth' by doing the opposite of each of these steps!

CREATE YOUR OWN CODE!

Now it's your turn! Create a sequence of steps for your friend to follow. Use simple movements like:
Forward / Backward / Left turn / Right turn / Special action (e.g. hop, spin, clap, etc.)
Write your code in the space below. The teacher should pick someone's code randomly and challenge the class to follow it!

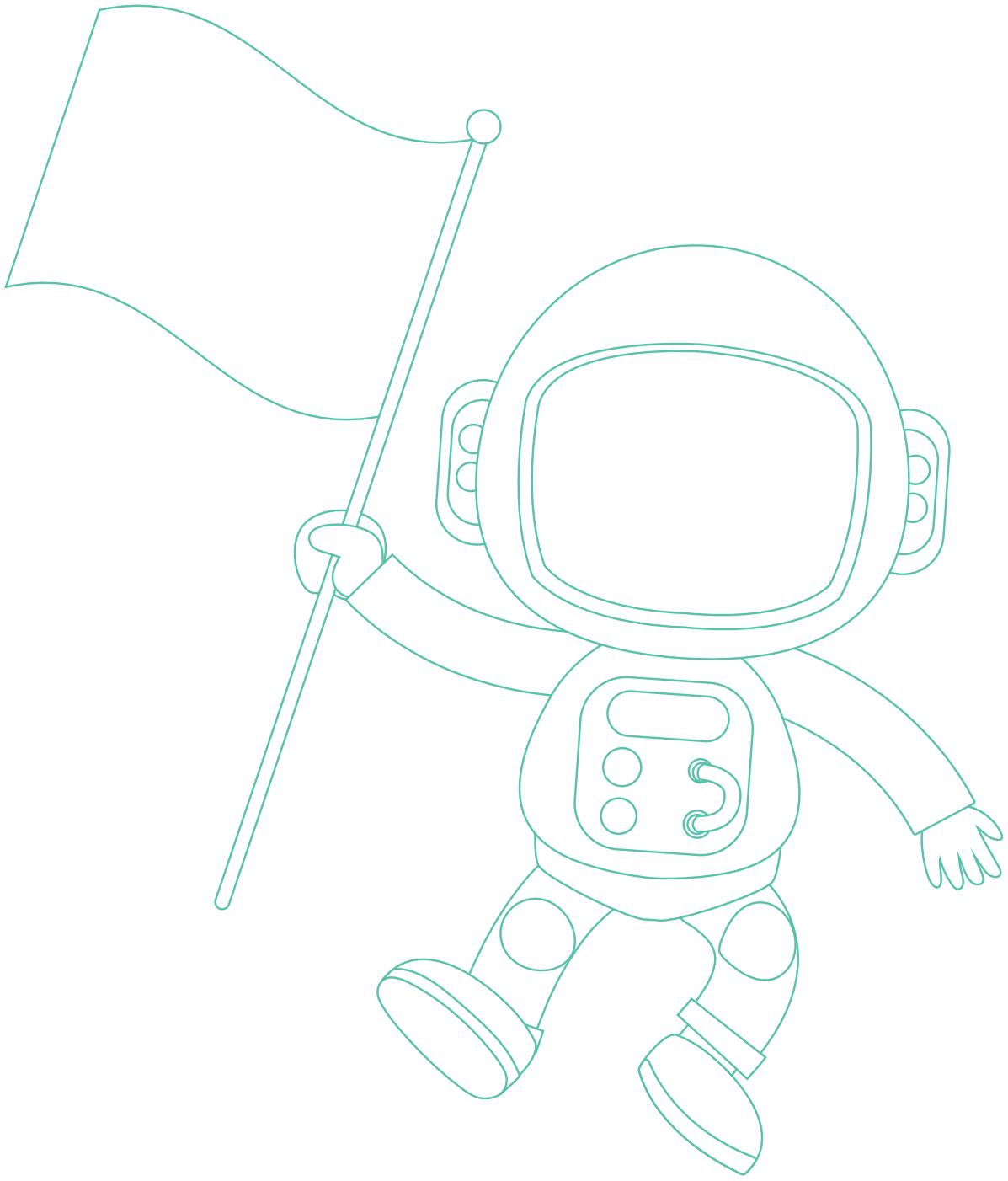
- **Step 1:** _____
- **Step 2:** _____
- **Step 3:** _____
- **Step 4:** _____
- **Step 5:** _____
- **Objective landed on:** _____

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OUT-OF-THIS-WORLD FASHION

When you go into space, it's important to dress stylishly. Colour in the spacesuit you would wear if you went to another world!



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