YoungWriters Online Resources

Let's Get Writing!



SPACE

Thanks to work experience student **Liam Tomblin** who created some of these activities for you!

Includes poetry and fiction, activities, arts and crafts

www.youngwriters.co.uk

for 7-11 year-olds

Space Activity Pack

Out of this world

FUN FACTS ABOUT SPACE AND THE SOLAR SYSTEM!

W26 is "the largest known star in the Universe" at around 3000 times the diameter of the sun.

Jupiter, the largest planet, has 63 known moons.

It takes light eight minutes to travel from the sun to Earth. When looking at the sun you are seeing into the past!

The sun is so hot anything burns up before hitting it!

The eight planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Pluto is no longer called a planet because it is too small.

When a star dies, it sometimes becomes a black hole that is so dangerous nothing can escape its gravity! The rest of the time it just explodes into a super nova.

The International Space System is the only object in space, apart from the Earth, with people living on it.

A shooting star is actually just a moving meteor with gas burning up behind it.

Felix Baumgartner skydived from the 'edge of space' in 2012.

A single day on Venus lasts longer than a year on Earth.

The first manmade object in space was the German V2 Rocket test number V-4 made on 3rd October 1942.

Only 12 people have ever walked on the moon!

The sun is part of a galaxy called the Milky Way. No one knows what is at the centre of the galaxy, but many people think that it is a giant black hole!

The first creatures intentionally sent into space were fruit flies.

Creative Writing Activity

Beyond the Stars

In the year 5018 Commander Orion and his crew embarked on a journey of discovery through the solar system. After months of travelling they finally discovered a new planet. A meteor shower damaged their craft and they crash-landed.

Boing! Twang! Clank! Crunch! Smash!

'Oh no!' cried out Commander Orion in despair. 'What are we going to do? We can't take-off while the Sprocket McJangle Piston is broken!'

'I need some parts to fix this Commander, otherwise we'll never leave this place,' warned the ship's mechanic, Corvus.

'Commander, look over there!' exclaimed Trooper Vega, one of the Commander's men.

The crew all turned to see what had caught his attention …

The story 'Beyond the Stars' is started for you and you need to finish it.

When writing a story you need to make sure there is a clear beginning, middle and end, otherwise your story won't make sense.

The Beginning

The beginning of your story introduces your character(s) and the setting (where your character is). It has to be interesting to draw the reader in and leave them keen to read all the way to the end!

Who is your main character? In 'Beyond the Stars' Commander Orion is the main character and the story is set on a new planet in space.

What is your main character like? Commander Orion is brave, strong and a good leader.

In the beginning tell us what your character is doing. Commander Orion has crash-landed on a planet and is helping his mechanic try to fix the engine.

The Middle

The middle of the story needs to tell us a bit more about what is happening. Where are they? (Does the planet have a name and what does it look like?) Do they get the parts to fix the engine? If yes, what do they use? If no, what happens? What does the spacecraft / rocket look like? What has Trooper Vega seen? You can go into a bit more detail about the character(s) and what they look like / are wearing as long as it flows with what you are writing.

The Ending

Your story needs to finish and make sense! The middle of the story will explain where the crew are, what they are like, what Trooper Vega has seen. Now you need to tell us what happens, do the crew fix the engine? Do they leave the planet? Do they get stuck there forever or choose to stay? Do they all get blown up or eaten by alien monsters instead? Does everyone live happily ever after?

If you follow these rules you will have written a story! Once you have written it, read over it and make sure it makes sense, change bits too. If you can make the story even better by re-drafting then do so!

Beyond the Stars

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'Commander, look over there!' exclaimed Trooper Vega, one of the Commander's men.

The crew all turned to see what had caught his attention ...

Finish the story!

Space Activity Pack

Space Poetry Workshop

1 Word Association

Write down words here that you associate with space and space travel ...

2 What does space ...

Look like?.....

.....

Feel like?.....

.....

Smell like?.....

.....

Sound like?.....

.....

Is it lonely? Y / N

What colour is it? .....

.....

How would you feel if you met an alien? .....

.....

What does the alien look like?

.....

What can the alien show or tell you about space?.....

.....

3 Pick from a ... rocket astronaut star planet alien

Jot down some notes and descriptive words about your chosen word here ...

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Space Activity Pack

4 **Using the word you picked and the ideas from steps 2 and 3, write your space poem below ...**

Up, Up and Away I Go ...

You're welcome to send your poem to us!

Name: ..... **Surname:** ..... **Age:** .....

Home Address: .....

.....

.....

..... **Postcode:** .....

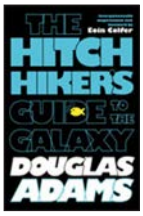
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Recommended Reads

THESE BOOKS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD!

Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

by Douglas Adams
Published by Macmillan Children's Books
RRP: £6.99 | ISBN: 9780330508117
Age rating: 9+



When the Earth is bulldozed by accident on a Thursday lunchtime, Arthur Dent has had enough. Moments before the destruction, he is plucked from the planet and embarks on a road trip across the galaxy with his friend Ford Perfect.
The two journey across the galaxy, seeing and doing the strangest of things ...

The Zubot Master: Time Slip (Book 1)

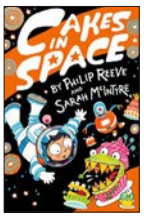
by J Bryden Lloyd
Published by: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform
RRP: £7.99 | ISBN: 9781470176013
Age rating: 7+



10-year-old Conner finds out that his future will involve his greatest dream, designing and building robots!
But when future Connor's robots come back to the past to protect Connor from the evil Killbots, he finds that robots are more trouble than he bargained for …

Cakes in Space

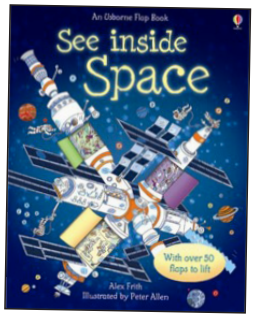
by Philip Reeve and Sarah McIntyre
Published by Oxford University Press
RRP £8.99 | ISBN 9780192734563
Age rating 7+



Astra's ship is in trouble. There's something very sinister lurking in the canteen. A cakey monstrosity on the war path. And then there's the Poglites - a space salvage crew who have invaded the ship in their quest for spoonage!
Astra and her robot friend Pilbeam are the only things standing in the way of the ship's destruction!

See Inside Space

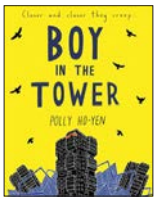
Published by Usborne Books
RRP £9.99 | ISBN 9780746087596
Age rating 7+



A flap book of astronomical proportions, packed with facts and information about the stars, planets and the universe, which has fabulous double-page topics show our solar system, the Milky Way, how scientists think the universe was created and the latest space travel technology. Over 50 flaps reveal fascinating facts about the universe and there's a little book of star maps tucked in a pocket at the back of the book and includes internet links to websites with the latest space information, games and photos.

Boy in the Tower

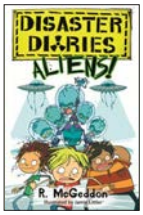
by Polly Ho-Yen
Published by: Doubleday Children's Books
RRP: £12.99 | ISBN: 9780857533036
Age rating 9+



Ade loves looking out the window at the top of the tower block. He feels like he can see the entire world. His mum doesn't like looking outside and she hates going outside. The tower is safe for them, not like out there. But when the other tower blocks start falling down and menacing plants start appearing in their place, Ade knows that the tower isn't safe for them anymore. Ade and his mum are trapped and there is no way out …

Disaster Diaries – Aliens!

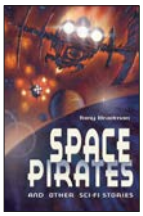
by R McGeddon, Illustrations by Jamie Littler
Published by LB Kids
RRP £5.99 | ISBN 9780349001760
Age rating 7+



Ever wondered how you'd cope if aliens invaded? Ever wanted to know how to find your way around a spaceship? Welcome to Disaster Diaries, where Sam, Arty and Emmie learn how to survive an otherworldly takeover the hard way, so that you don't have to . . .
Sam, Arty and Emmie have barely got over a recent zombie infestation when their sleepy little town finds itself the victim of an alien invasion! But the aliens are very small and kind of, well, cute-looking – how dangerous can they be?

Space Pirates; and other stories

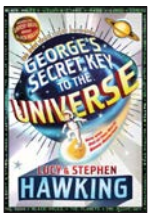
by Tony Bradman
Publisher: A&C Black publishers Ltd
RRP: £4.99 | ISBN: 9780713689051
Age rating: 9+



A collection of tales in the science-fiction genre. Two children must learn to survive in a lonely post-apocalyptic city, a family try to make life work on a new planet after Earth is destroyed and a boy attempts to outwit the most notorious pirate in the galaxy.

George's Secret Key to the Universe

by Lucy and Stephen Hawking
Publisher: Corgi Children
RRP: £5.99 | ISBN: 9780552559584
Age rating: 9+



Take a rollercoaster ride through the vastness of space and, in the midst of an exciting adventure, discover the mysteries of physics, science and the universe with George, his new friends next door – the scientist Eric and his daughter, Annie – and a super-intelligent computer called Cosmos, which can take them to the edge of a black hole and back again. Or can it? And who else would like to get their hands on Cosmos?
A funny and hugely informative romp through space, time and the universe.

YoungWriters Online Resources Let's Get Writing!

Space Activity Pack

Wordsearch

T	E	K	C	O	R	A	L	I	E	N	G
V	U	X	O	Y	J	U	P	I	T	E	R
E	N	E	P	T	U	N	E	N	U	S	A
N	I	Y	E	V	R	Y	O	R	A	R	V
U	V	S	R	L	R	M	A	M	N	O	I
S	E	X	U	U	O	N	X	A	O	E	T
N	R	N	C	N	U	H	M	R	R	T	Y
O	S	R	P	S	A	S	K	S	T	E	R
O	E	E	A	R	T	H	O	C	S	M	A
M	V	E	T	I	L	L	E	T	A	S	T
A	X	S	A	T	U	R	N	O	M	L	S
S	A	M	N	Y	X	A	L	A	G	O	B

ALIEN
EARTH
MERCURY
BLACK HOLE
UNIVERSE

SATURN
STAR
GRAVITY
SATELLITE
VENUS

NEPTUNE
MARS
GALAXY
ASTRONAUT
JUPITER

ROCKET
URANUS
MOON
METEOR

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National Space Centre

The National Space Centre is the UK's largest attraction dedicated to space exploration and space science. They have an amazing building filled with rockets, satellites, Martian surfaces and other fantastic artefacts. The building also houses experts and a full Space Communications team.

In the past the Centre has worked with BBC, CNN, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5, National Geographic and many other media outlets to provide content and location for news and educational pieces.

Of course the Centre remains focused on its core objectives and ensures that visitors have the full experience of the Centre, including the mind-blowing planetarium.

National Space Centre in Schools!

Invite the National Space Centre to come to your school, to deliver fantastic workshops in-house, or to experience a tour of the night sky in our StarDome Portable Planetarium!

StarDome

The StarDome is a portable, inflatable planetarium, which fits into most school halls or gyms. It is 6 metres in diameter, approximately 4 metres high and with space inside for about 30 children or 25 adults to take part in a session within the dome at any one time.

The StarDome recreates a dark night sky with hundreds of brilliant points of light splashed across the inside of the dome. The stars are projected into their positions for any time of the year. It is also possible to draw the constellation pictures from different civilisations so that you have a show that will entrance your students.

The StarDome presenters use a range of media both inside and outside the dome to bring space and astronomy to life.

Workshops

The National Space Centre also offers full day outreach programmes where you can have four workshop sessions in your school. Choose from any of their fantastic workshops* and these will be presented in the school by one of their presenters.

Please be aware that if your school is further than 75 mins from Leicester you will be offered the Virtual Classroom!



For further information, please contact The National Space Centre directly at www.education.spacecentre.co.uk and www.spacecentre.co.uk.

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It's out of this world!

A fantastic place to visit on a school trip, or with family!

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Space Quiz

1. What was Uranus originally called?

- ❍ Apollo
- ❍ Planet Herschel
- ❍ William's Star
- ❍ George's Star

2. Which planet is fifth from the sun?

- ❍ Saturn
- ❍ Mercury
- ❍ Jupiter
- ❍ Earth

3. The spacecraft to land the first men on the moon was called ...?

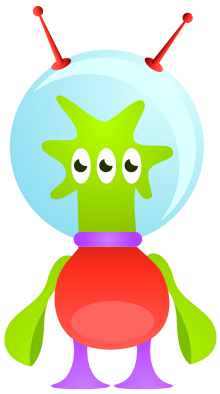
- ❍ Apollo 11
- ❍ Apollo 12
- ❍ Apollo 13
- ❍ Apollo 14

4. What does NASA stand for?

- ❍ National Astronauts Space Advancements
- ❍ Never Ask Spacemen for Answers
- ❍ Nice Astronauts and Space Aliens
- ❍ National Aeronautics and Space Administration

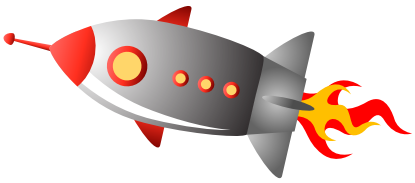
5. Which of the following appears every 75 to 76 years?

- ❍ A solar eclipse
- ❍ Halley's Comet
- ❍ A meteorite
- ❍ A black hole



6. Which planet is the only one to rotate clockwise?

- ❍ Venus
- ❍ Mercury
- ❍ Neptune
- ❍ Mars



7. Which planet has 52 named moons?

- ❍ Saturn
- ❍ Jupiter
- ❍ Venus
- ❍ Mercury

8. What is the Hubble?

- ❍ A galaxy
- ❍ A star
- ❍ A telescope
- ❍ A spacecraft

9. Which planet is the smallest in the solar system?

- ❍ Mars
- ❍ Earth
- ❍ Mercury
- ❍ Saturn

10. Which of the following isn't the name of a constellation?

- ❍ Ursula Major
- ❍ Cetus
- ❍ Gemini
- ❍ Orion

Space Activity Pack



Answer Sheet



QUIZ

1. **What was Uranus originally called?**
   - George's Star
2. **Which planet is fifth from the sun?**
   - Jupiter
3. **The spacecraft to land the first men on the moon was called ...?**
   - Apollo 11
4. **What does NASA stand for?**
   - National Aeronautics and Space Administration
5. **Which of the following appears every 75 to 76 years?**
   - Halley's Comet
6. **Which planet is the only one to rotate clockwise?**
   - Venus
7. **Which planet has 52 named moons?**
   - Saturn
8. **What is the Hubble?**
   - A telescope
9. **Which planet is the smallest in the solar system?**
   - Mercury
10. **Which of the following isn't the name of a constellation?**
    - Ursula Major

WORDSEARCH

T	E	K	C	O	R	A	L	I	E	N	G
V	U	X	O	Y	J	U	P	I	T	E	R
E	N	E	P	T	U	N	E	N	U	S	A
N	I	Y	E	V	R	Y	O	R	A	R	V
U	V	S	R	L	R	M	A	M	N	O	I
S	E	X	U	U	O	N	X	A	O	E	T
N	R	N	C	N	U	H	M	R	R	T	Y
O	S	R	P	S	A	S	K	S	T	E	R
O	E	E	A	R	T	H	O	C	S	M	A
M	V	E	T	I	L	L	E	T	A	S	T
A	X	S	A	T	U	R	N	O	M	L	S
S	A	M	N	Y	X	A	L	A	G	O	B

ALIEN
ASTRONAUT
URANUS
EARTH
JUPITER
MOON
MERCURY
ROCKET
METEOR
BLACK HOLE
UNIVERSE
SATURN
STAR
GRAVITY
SATELLITE
VENUS
NEPTUNE
MARS
GALAXY



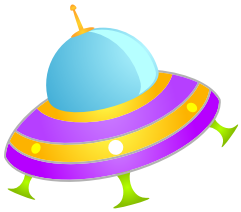
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Adult supervision required

How to make orbiting planets





This plan is flexible and it can either be adapted by you so you can show your pupils how to make the orbiting planets, or it can be handed out to your pupils as it is. **We advise that this activity is undertaken with the assistance of an adult and / or adult supervision.**

Now you can make your own planet(s) with orbiting rockets, stars, aliens and astronauts!

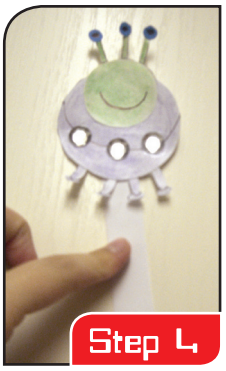
You will need:

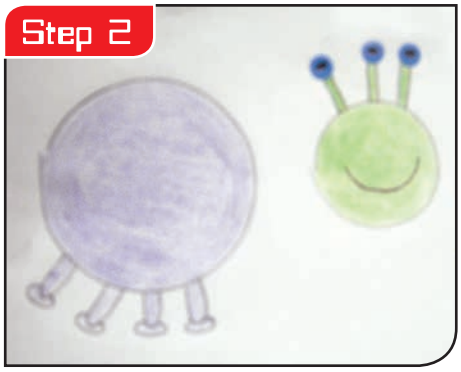
- Paper plates
- Paints
- Paintbrush and sponges
- Scissors
- Split pins
- Colouring pens / pencils / crayons
- Cardboard cut into strips (to attach your planet to the orbiting item)
- Cotton or string
- Template of a rocket / star / alien / astronaut
- Sequins / glitter / tissue paper etc for decoration

Instructions

1. Firstly decorate your paper plates as different planets. (We've chosen the Earth and Mars.) Use sponges, paintbrushes and your fingers to get different effects.
2. Colour in the templates of what is going to orbit your planets. (We've chosen an alien to orbit Mars and a rocket to orbit Earth.) Decorate them with craft items such as glitter or tissue paper if you want to.
3. Carefully cut your templates out. Ask an adult for help if you need it.
4. Stick each template to a cardboard strip.
5. Use a pen to make a small hole at the end of your cardboard strip (opposite end of where your template is stuck on). Then make a small hole in the middle of your planet.
6. Put your planet on top of the cardboard strip and match the holes up. Push your split pin through the hole and secure.
7. Make sure you can move your orbiting item around your planet!
8. If you have 2 or more planets, attach them together with a piece of cotton or string.
9. Hang them from the ceiling for everyone to admire!





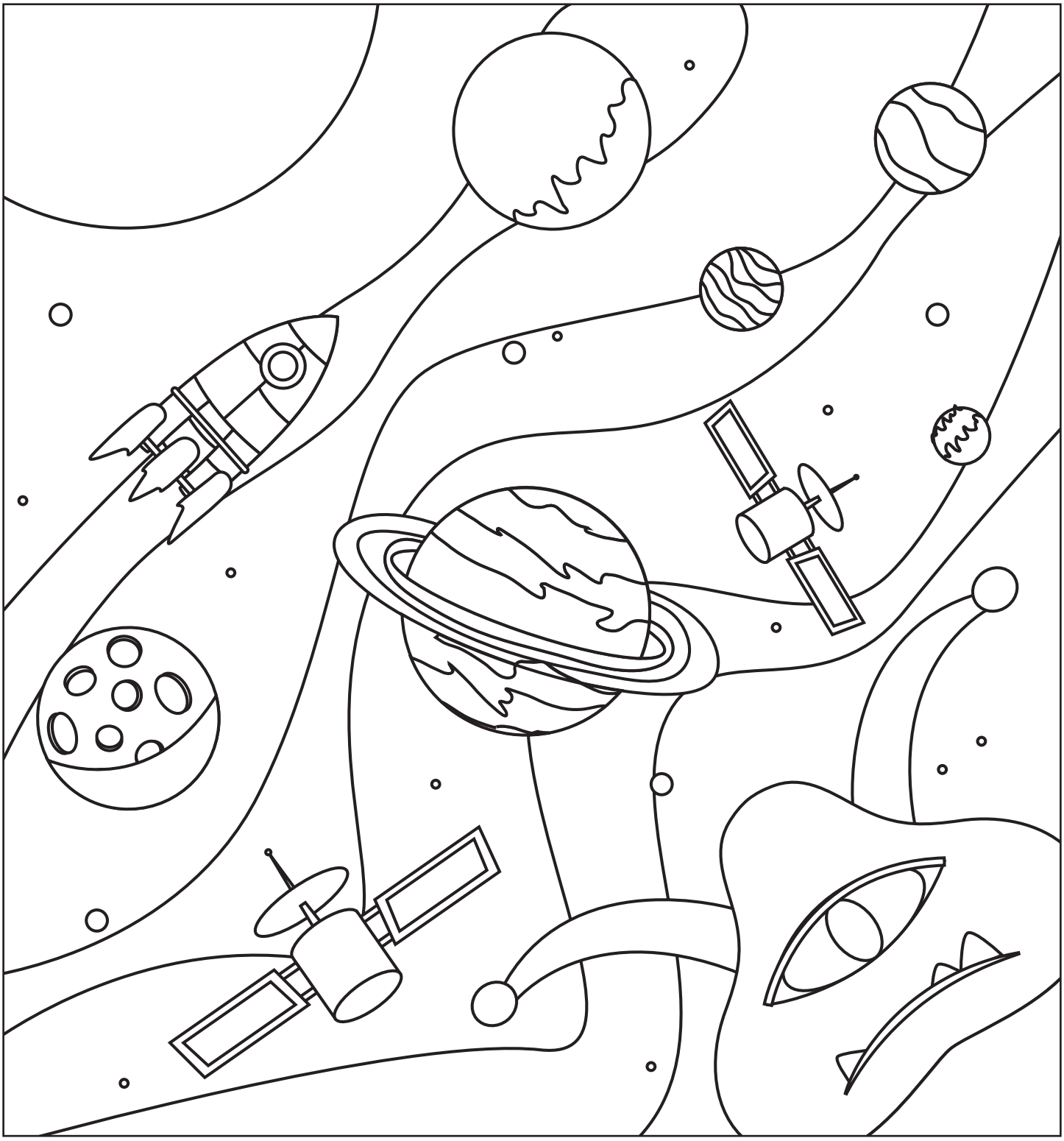




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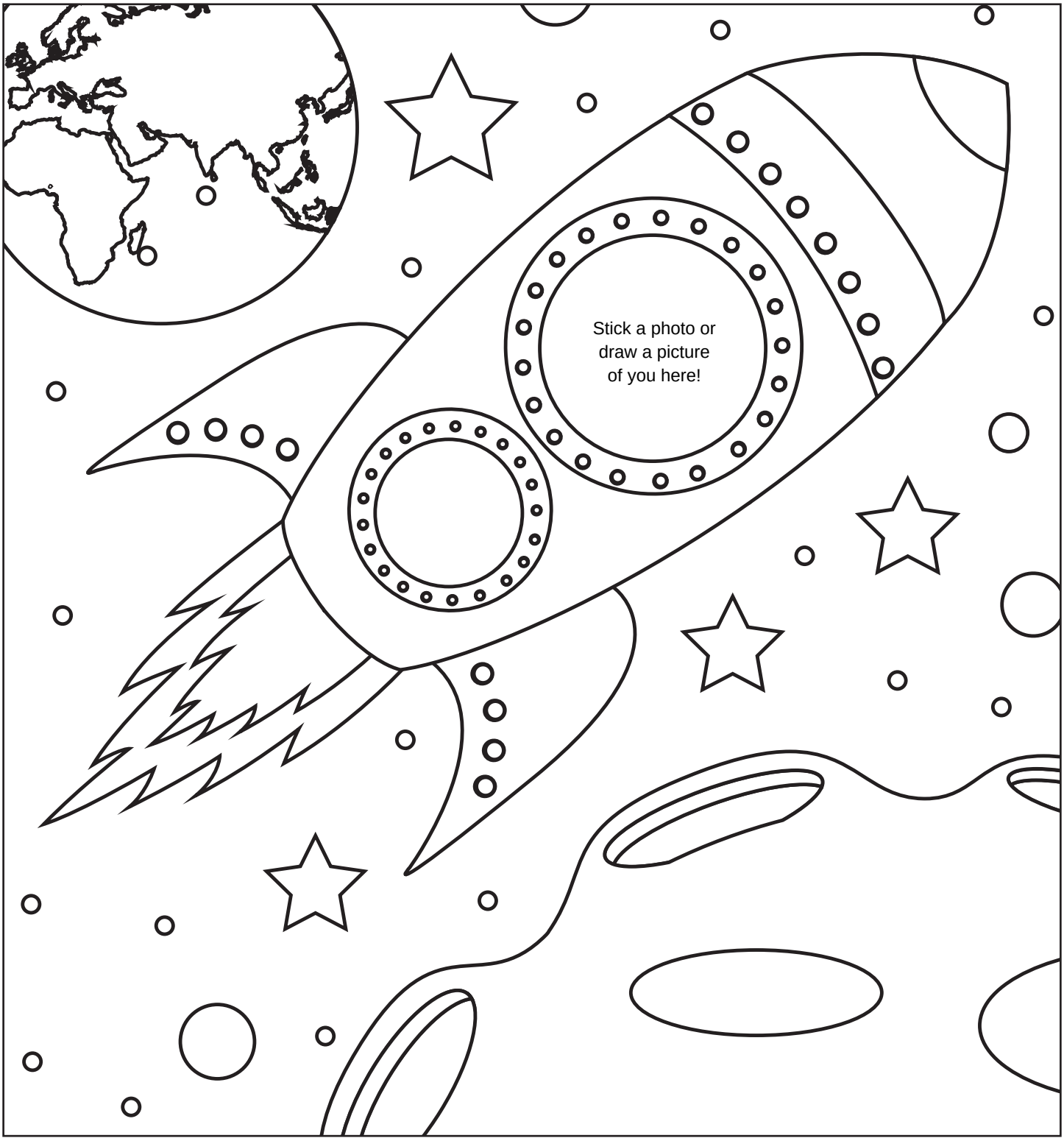
Colouring Fun



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Young Writers

Young Writers aim to encourage young people to engage in creative writing. We have worked with schools, parents and young writers for over 20 years by doing the following:

- Running national poetry and creative writing competitions through schools
- Providing resources to teachers to aid them in teaching Young Writers
- Providing poetry and creative writing workshops for Young Writers

Our website – **www.youngwriters.co.uk** – hosts a variety of lesson plans and workshops for children as well as recommending books, publishing children's reviews, winners' section, author interviews and much more! We have a blog that features all sorts of literary news, as well as provide more information about Young Writers in general. Visit the news section of our website to read our blog.

We welcome feedback, suggestions and comments from teachers, parents and young writers – please feel free to give us a call on 01733 890066 or drop us an email info@youngwriters.co.uk.

We hope you have enjoyed using our free resource pack. If you would like to send any of your poetry, stories or mini sagas to us, for consideration for publication, please send them to **FREEPOST RSLY-AUJA-RAHY, Young Writers OR, Remus House, Coltsfoot Drive, Peterborough PE2 9BF.**

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