

World Space Week

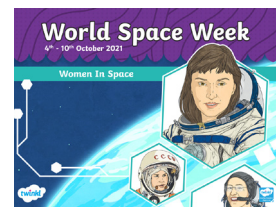
Whole School Assembly Script

Aims:

- To learn about World Space Week
- To understand the contribution that women have made to space exploration.

Music Suggestions:

- Ernie from Sesame Street – I Don't Want to Live on the Moon
- Laura Veirs – Galaxies
- Jason Mraz – 93 Million Miles

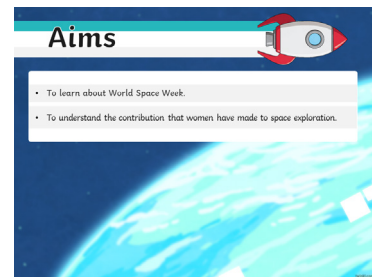


Slide 1: World Space Week

Title page to be displayed at the beginning.

Slide 2: Aims

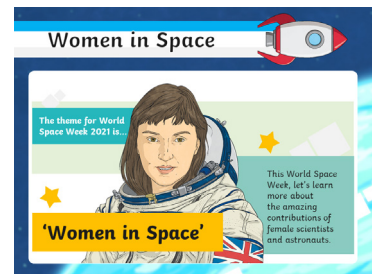
Share the aims with the children.



Slide 3: Women in Space

Introduce the theme for 2021.

Let's discover the contributions of female scientists and astronauts since the 1960s and the Great Space Race between the USA and the Soviet Union.



Slide 4: World Space Week

Read the introduction to World Space Week.

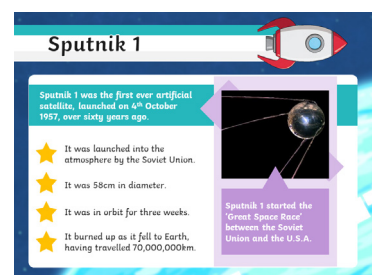
Further information about Sputnik 1 is provided on slide 5.



Slide 5: Sputnik 1

Share the facts about the first ever artificial satellite.

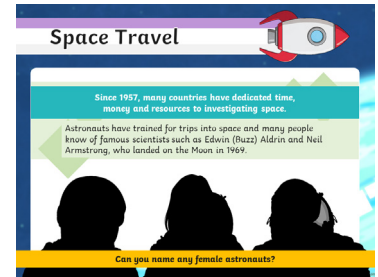
Does anything surprise you?



Slide 6: Space Travel

Some children may have heard of the first men on the Moon, Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong, and maybe others such as Tim Peake.

Can you name any female astronauts?



Slide 7: Quick Quiz

To date, nearly 600 people have flown in space.

How many of these have been women?

Click on the answer with the most votes. Reveal the answer (65). Are the children surprised? What do you think the barriers are to women in space?

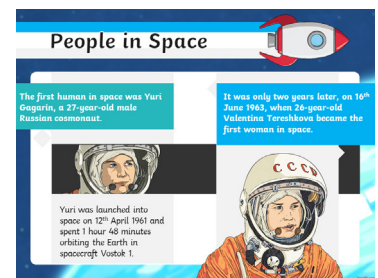
(Some suggestions are: historically dominated by men, concerns about how women's bodies would adapt to space travel (e.g. with menstruation and fertility), originally only men could join NASA as astronauts, and other reasons.)



Slide 8: People in Space

Share the information about the first ever human in space, Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

Then, read about the first woman in space, Russian Valentina Tereshkova. (The first US woman didn't go into space for another twenty years.)

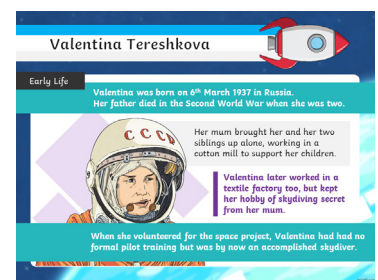


Slides 9 - 11: Valentina Tereshkova

Share the biography of the first woman in space.

Invite the children to reflect on her early years and how she overcame barriers to become a cosmonaut.

A cosmonaut is someone trained by the Russian Space Agency vs an astronaut who is trained by NASA.



Slide 12 - 14: Famous Women in Space

Briefly introduce five other famous women in space:

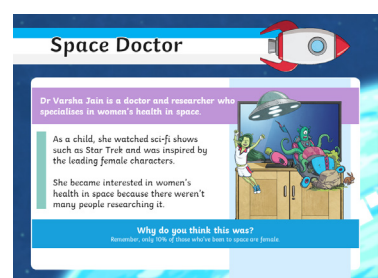
- Helen Sharman
- Dr Katie Bouman
- Katharine Coleman Goble
- Stephanie Wilson
- Shannon Walker

Discuss their achievements as scientists and mathematicians with the children.



Slides 15: Space Doctor

Introduce Dr Varsha Jain, who has never been to space but is currently researching women's health in space.

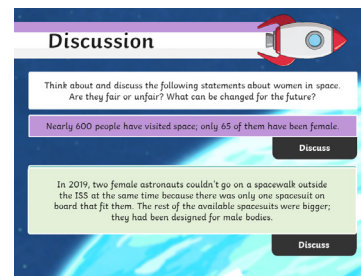


Slide 16: Discussion

Consider the three statements relating to gender equality / inequality and share with your children as appropriate.

Have the children consider and show you 'thumbs up' or 'thumbs down' for fair or unfair.

Opportunities for women in space have improved in the past sixty years but, as the statement from 2019 shows, there is still work to be done to ensure women astronauts have the same opportunities as men.



Discussion

Think about and discuss the following statements about women in space. Are they fair or unfair? What can be changed for the future?

Nearly 600 people have visited space, only 65 of them have been female.

In 2019, two female astronauts couldn't go on a spacewalk outside the ISS at the same time because there was only one spacesuit on board that fit them. The rest of the available spacesuits were bigger; they had been designed for male bodies.

Slide 17: Time to Reflect

You may like to invite children to close their eyes and reflect on the achievements and contributions of women to space travel.

How have you been inspired?



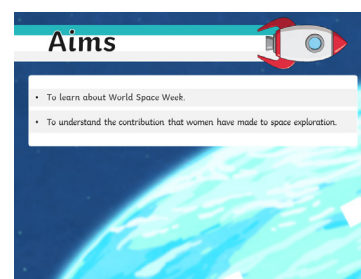
Time to Reflect

This World Space Week, let's think about the amazing work that women in space have done, are doing and will continue to do into the future.

How have you been inspired?

Slide 18: Aims

Reread the aims and check children's understanding.



Aims

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