

Pearson Edexcel Primary Curriculum

English

Year 6

Tuesday 2 June 2015 – Morning
Resources Booklet

Paper Reference
JEH01/01

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Text A – Space Exploration

The Beginning of Space Exploration

For centuries, scientists have been looking at the prospects of travelling into outer space. In the 1940s, experimental rocket launches into space were carried out time after time, but none could reach the desired altitudes. However, everything changed on October 4, 1957, when the Soviet Union (Russia) sent the first unmanned mission into space. This first satellite was called Sputnik 1, and successfully remained in outer space for three whole months. On November 3, 1957, a second satellite was launched (unsurprisingly called Sputnik 2), but this time there was a dog on board! It stayed in orbit for seven days. This Russian success led to the beginning of the 'space race'. The Americans were envious of the Russians, and wanted to outdo them.

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The Space Race

The space race brought about a massive revolution in space exploration as each country tried to outpace the other in the advancement of space technology and achievement. When the Soviet Union launched two successive satellites, the Americans were not to be outdone. The successful satellite Explorer 1 was launched on January 31, 1958, and this was quickly followed with the launch of Explorer 2 on March 5, 1958. However, this failed to reach orbit.

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Man in Space

After experimenting with animals, space travel now moved to putting human beings into space. The first successful manned spacecraft was launched by the Soviet Union on April 12, 1961, with Yuri Gagarin as the astronaut. He was selected to undertake the mission because he was small enough (1.5m) to fit into the cramped cockpit of the spaceship, physically fit, and had a sharp memory with good reflexes. The orbit of the Vostok 1 around the earth took one hour 48 minutes. Not to be outdone, the United States launched their first manned space mission with astronaut Alan Shepard one month later.

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Neil Armstrong

With advancement in technology, it became easier and safer to launch manned missions. This led to an attempt to land on the moon, which was finally achieved when the crew of the Apollo 11 made a safe landing on the moon on July 20, 1969. At that time the world's largest television audience watched as astronaut Neil Armstrong took his first tentative step onto the surface of the moon, uttering the famous words, 'That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind.'

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This great achievement catapulted America ahead in the space race.

The Future of Space Exploration

Mars is now the main focal point of modern space exploration, but has been rather unfriendly to Earth's attempts to visit it! More missions have been attempted to Mars than to any other place in the Solar System except the moon, and about half of the attempts have failed. But since 1996, Mars exploration has taken on a new lease of life with four successful landings.

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Text B – Land of Nod by Gary Hoover

In this extract, 14 year old Jeff has discovered a portal (an entrance) into an alternative world.

It seemed pitch black for a moment, but his eyes quickly readjusted. He stumbled towards the portal, feeling his way as he went. On reaching the edge, he paused and then exhaled forcefully.

‘Should I really do this? What am I getting myself into?’

He dipped a toe into the portal, causing it to hum into life. A blue light lit his face. He pulled on the rope that hung in front of him, made sure it was secure, tucked his trusted cricket bat under his arm, then threw the free end of the rope into the opening, and watched it twist and wave in the blackness. 5

He glanced down and could see his own body twisting and stretching below him.

That image was quite disconcerting, so he looked up, and focused on the solid feel of the rope as he lowered himself down. Lights flashed by his head, and within a few moments he was hanging over a forest. Above him he could see the rope dangling in a black circle suspended in the sky. 10

Jeff looked down and saw the trees below him. He lowered himself through the branches and these scratched him painfully. Slowly, he made his descent, keeping a good hold on the rope, but found it increasingly difficult to maintain his concentration as the branches continued to scratch and whip him. When he was not far from the ground, his right foot became caught on a branch, upending him. Desperately, he tried to retain hold of the rope... 15

The bat slipped, and its thick end hit him on the head with a resounding ‘bonk’. This was enough to throw off the intense concentration he had been using to prevent a fall to the pine-needle blanketed ground below. 20

Jeff had just enough time to think: *‘This is going to hurt’*, before his back made hard, bone jarring, teeth rattling contact with the ground.

He had the rather unpleasant experience of breathlessness, and clutched his stomach instinctively as he desperately tried to get air into his lungs. Before he had time to regain his composure, he saw something move out of the corner of his eye. He tilted his head to get a better look. 25

About fifteen feet away was a very odd animal. It was about the size of a rabbit and looked somewhat like one, but with small ears, a naked tail, and long hind-legs combined with very short fore-legs. It was standing on two feet, giving it the shape of an extremely small and furry rodent-like dinosaur. 30

Jeff reached for his bat, which was about half a metre away from his right hand. As his hand fumbled and then closed around the bat, the rodent saw him and then froze.

Motionless, the two stared at each other for a few moments. Then Jeff heard a sound, looked up and saw something falling from a tree branch above the rodent. 35

It looked like a jellyfish - like a huge amoeba. Pulling his bat tightly to his chest, Jeff raised himself to his feet shakily and slowly backed away.

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