

UKS2 – Lesson Plan 1 – History

How has our understanding of space changed over time?

Aim: To explore key moments in space history and understand how scientific knowledge has evolved from ancient astronomy to modern space exploration.	Key Words: astronomy, telescope, orbit, planet, moon landing, astronaut, heliocentric, geocentric, satellite, discovery	Preparation: - Timeline cards or printable timeline sheets - Fact cards for key figures (e.g. Galileo, Copernicus, Katherine Johnson, Neil Armstrong, Tim Peake) - Images and videos of key space events (e.g. Sputnik, Apollo 11) - A3 paper or display sheets - Research task sheets or tablet access for online research
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Prior Learning: Children have a basic understanding of the planets in the solar system and some familiarity with historical timelines.

WC / PT	<u>Warm-up:</u> Show images of space artefacts or figures from history: A telescope, early star charts, rockets, astronauts Ask: Who do you think first looked at the stars with a telescope? Do you know who was the first person to walk on the Moon? Explain: Today we're going to look at how people's ideas about space have changed throughout history.	0-5 mins
WC	<u>Main Teach:</u> Introduce a timeline of space discovery from ancient astronomy to today. Include: - Ancient astronomers (e.g. Ptolemy, geocentric model) - Copernicus and the heliocentric theory - Galileo and the telescope 20th-century milestones (Sputnik, Moon landing, ISS) - Contributions of women and lesser-known scientists (e.g. Katherine Johnson) Discuss how ideas changed based on new evidence and tools (e.g. telescopes, rockets).	5-10 mins

I / S	<u>Activity:</u> Create a Space Discovery Timeline Children work in groups to: 1. Place key events and people on a large timeline 2. Add short descriptions and images 3. Highlight how new inventions (e.g. telescopes, rockets) led to new discoveries Encourage them to use colour coding (e.g. blue for people, red for discoveries, green for technology).	10-30 mins
I	<u>Extension Challenge:</u> Children research a space pioneer (e.g. Mae Jemison, Yuri Gagarin, Stephen Hawking) and present their impact on science and space understanding.	30-35 mins
WC	<u>Plenary:</u> Class reflection: • What surprised you the most about space history? • How did science and history work together? • Why is it important to remember the people behind the discoveries? Create a class display titled: <i>"The History of Space Discovery"</i>	35-40 mins

WC – Whole Class

PT – Partner Talk

I – Independent

S - Support

Challenge A	English Link: Write a biography of a key figure in space history (e.g. Galileo, Neil Armstrong).
Challenge B	Art Link: Design a postage stamp to celebrate a major space achievement.