

Follow up activity ideas for “If I were an Astronaut...”

You can watch the story again here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wV8yw7iV8w>
or watch the story in our recording of the session on our website here:
<https://talklink.org.nz/virtual-kiwichat-groups>

Talk about the story

Use these suggestions as points to talk about using your communication system. An adult can record the answers on the worksheet following the talk around each question.
(**Adults:** remember to use the communication device to model vocabulary)

Watch the story again if needed and talk about...

1. What astronauts do
2. Tools astronauts use
3. Astronauts are important because...
4. Would you like to be an astronaut? Why or Why not?

Other books to read

- Here is a collection of Tarheel Reader books about Space to explore:
<https://tarheelreader.org/favorites/?collection=books-on-space>
- ‘Roaring rockets’ by Tony Mitton. You can watch the story here:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ko306WcHRns>

Other activities

We have also come up with some other activities to try at home or at school relating to our book reading! These are:

- Astronaut demos drinking coffee in space on Tar heel game play:
<https://tarheelgameplay.org/2017/06/22/drink-coffee-in-space/>
- Watch more videos of Astronauts explaining how they do things in space!
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLOF_GCtqAlKbi2s6qfKZrlXmnoiC7O_xi
- Balloon Rocket Science experiment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DVlf-HwdyTU>
Thread a straw through a long piece of string. Tie this piece of string between two objects, about the same height (i.e. a chair or table), placed about 3m apart. Blow up a balloon and attach it to the straw using some tape. Let go of the end of the balloon to let the “balloon rocket” blast off!
- Straw rockets: <https://buggyandbuddy.com/straw-rockets-with-free-rocket-template/>
Print out the free rocket template, colour the rockets and cut them out. Cut the bottom of plastic droppers and attach it to the back of a rocket using tape or glue dots. Slip a straw into the dropper and you’re ready to launch. Give the straw a big puff of air, watch it take off!
- Paper helicopter: <https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/make-a-paper-mars-helicopter/>

Print off the template and cut out the helicopter. Fold along the solid lines then do a test flight. Make other changes to the helicopter and see if you can make your helicopter better!

- Make some universe slime! <https://spaceplace.nasa.gov/universe-slime/en/>
Use glue, borax, water, red and blue food colouring and glitter to make beautiful glittery slime.

- Mars exploration- explore rocks using core sampling:

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/explore-rocks-using-core-sampling/>

Use 3 or more colours of play dough to make a “rock”, then use simple tools to explore inside. You can use additional materials like cake sprinkles, ground black pepper or sand to make different types of rocks.

- Types of clouds and what they mean:

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/the-types-of-clouds-and-what-they-mean/>

Learn about clouds and how they form, then identify the clouds you see and complete a Cloud Observation Report Form. You can then upload this information to the globe observer App, using the Clouds tool.

- Make your own Starshade:

<https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/edu/learn/project/space-origami-make-your-own-starshade/>

Students can try to make their own model of a star shade so that photos can be taken in space. Print out the Starshade template and cut it out. Score and create the fold lines then fold it to stow away. Use an empty toilet tube as a space telescope to use with the Starshade model. Hold a pretend launch and then unfurl the Starshade.