

ACTIVITY 6.2 PLANET X

From the Chapter Six of the Mission Mars Diary

marsdiary.org/activities/planet-x

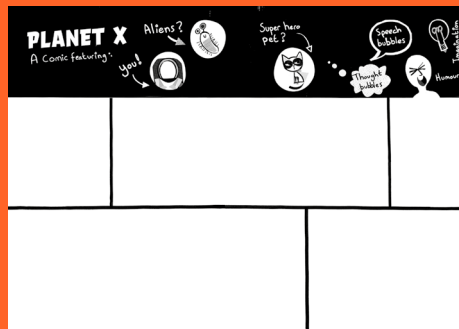
LEARNING LEVEL

KS2, P5-7, Y4-6

CURRICULUM LINKS & DIFFERENTIATION IDEAS

View detailed curriculum links for England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales in the Teacher Toolkit, plus differentiation ideas for your region and year level.

marsdiary.org/resources/#teacher-toolkit



Resources Required

- Drawing materials
- Computers/iPads (optional)

Background to this Activity

This creative activity lets children use their imagination to create a comic about an adventure set beyond the Red Planet. Children could think about before hand what kind of life might be out there on other planets and the similarities it might have to things on Earth.

Running the Activity

Read some comics or graphic novels, look at online comics or have children bring them in for the lesson. Ask children: what makes a good story and how does the artist tell the story?

Children should start by making a plan for their story. Ask them to create their characters using a picture or describe their character in words then draw the picture to match. Then they can describe and draw their setting and plan their plot by writing down/drawing the beginning, middle and end.

Next lesson:

Children will create their comic using their story plan to help. Children could choose how to illustrate their comic – pens, paint, water colours etc.

Questions for the Class

- What kinds of things can we read for enjoyment? (Books, poems, online or ebooks, magazines, newspaper, comics, graphic novels etc)
- What kinds of stories do people like? Genres?
- How do comic artists tell their stories?
- How much writing do they do?
- Who will your characters be? Setting? Plot? Crisis

point in story?

Additional Challenges / Extension Activities

Use ICT – Using a computer or iPad app, children could recreate their comic.

Create a prequel or sequel as a homework activity.

Ideas for Differentiation

Lower KS2 / PS4:

- Children could have a smaller number of pictures to create or tell a shorter story.
- Teachers could provide a story written in words and children could create this as a comic version.

Upper KS2 / PS5-6:

- Children could write their story in words using detailed descriptions first and then create as a comic story.
- Children could work in pairs and could write comic together as a Part 1 and Part 2 or even in groups doing a section each to create a bigger story.

Useful Links

Junior comic artist shows how he plans and creates a one-page comic strip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c4e0NR6IEP8>

Find more great space-themed STEM resources at <https://www.stem.org.uk/esero>