

## ACTIVITY 1.2 8 MINUTES TO SPACE

From Chapter 1 of the Principia  
Space Diary

[http://principiaspacediary.org/  
activities/8-minutes-to-space](http://principiaspacediary.org/activities/8-minutes-to-space)

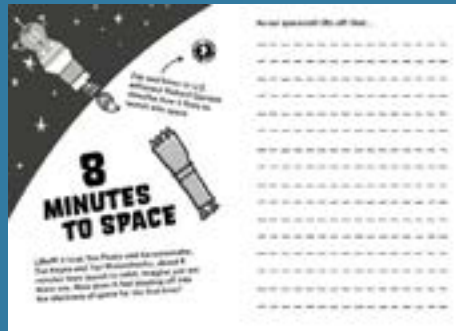
### LEARNING LEVEL

KS1, KS2, P1-5

### CURRICULUM LINKS & DIFFERENTIATION IDEAS

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

[principiaspacediary.org/  
curriculum-planner/](http://principiaspacediary.org/curriculum-planner/)



### Resources Required

- Internet access
- Writing materials
- A stopwatch or timer
- Interactive whiteboard (optional)

### Background to this Activity

It took approximately eight minutes for the Soyuz capsule to carry Tim Peake through the Earth's atmosphere and into outer space. This is amazing, given how far Tim travelled in this time (it's around 100 kilometres or 62 miles from Earth to outer space. The ISS itself is around 322 kilometres or 200 miles from Earth). This creative writing activity will help students imagine what it is like to leave Earth, while encouraging personal expression and development of literacy skills.

### Running the Activity

For this activity, it is important that pupils have an understanding of the length of time being considered. Use a timer or stopwatch to help pupils with this. Set the timer for one minute. Ask pupils how long they think they spend travelling to school, brushing teeth, doing homework, eating dinner. Eight minutes is a very short period of time to travel this huge distance.

You can access an audio writing prompt using the Zappar App. This is a recording of US astronaut Richard Garriott describing his first few minutes after launch. If you prefer the video version you can find it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o7xK8XDtlkY>

Share learning objectives and success criteria for writing with the class. These will vary depending on the age and ability of students (see ideas for differentiation in your region's curriculum planner). Students will write about an imagined journey through space. Encourage pupils to think about their senses to describe the experience, as well as writing about their thoughts and feelings.

Ask pupils to share their writing with the class. There are opportunities for peer and self-assessment here.

### Questions for the Class

- What are the different ways you can travel to school? How long does it take you to travel to school if you walk, take public transport or drive? Where can you travel in eight minutes from your home or school?
- Tim Peake spent seven months away from his family, friends and home, while on his Principia Mission. What do you think it would feel like to be away for so long? How would you feel?

### Extensions & Digital Resources

**ZAP!** Use the Zappar app to listen to an audio recording of US private astronaut, Richard Garriott, describing the first few minutes after launching into space. See Zappar instructions at the link below and note that the mobile/tablet will need to be connected to the internet: <http://principiaspacediary.org/using-zap-codes-to-strengthen-digital-literacy/>