

ACTIVITY 5.2 SPACE HABITAT

From Chapter 5 of the Principia
Space Diary

[http://principiaspacediary.org/
activities/space-habitat](http://principiaspacediary.org/activities/space-habitat)

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

- Pens and pencils
- Craft materials or tools like Lego (optional)

Background to this Activity

This activity encourages Space Apprentices to think about a planet to make their home. You may want to discuss things like the 'Goldilocks Zone' and the conditions we need for successful life on another planet. You can look back at the conditions of our own solar system here: <http://principiaspacediary.org/exploring-solar-system/>.

Running the Activity

Encourage students to consider things like the atmosphere on the planet, its temperatures, gravitational forces, the availability of water and the length of day and night.

The video featuring Stephen Hawking raises a lot of these issues: [https://www.youtube.com/
watch?v=n4uT3rTSty4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4uT3rTSty4)

Discuss with the class what would be needed for a habitat on an alien planet.

You can look at this gallery of images to give inspiration: [https://www.theguardian.com/cities/gallery/2014/
may/16/a-cosy-little-house-on-mars-cities-in-space-in-
pictures](https://www.theguardian.com/cities/gallery/2014/may/16/a-cosy-little-house-on-mars-cities-in-space-in-pictures)

Students can create and draw their space city but you can also use Lego or craft materials to model a future habitat in 3D. You might invite students to use computer programmes to model their cities.

Questions for the Class

- How would you grow food on your new home?
- What sort of rules and laws would you want on the planet?
- What are the pros and cons of settling on another planet?
- What is the biggest risk of settling on a new planet?