



# To the Moon and Back

## Rationale

To contribute to a whole school gallery of writing.  
To consider the genre of science fiction from a variety of angles.

Creativity	Independence	Aspiration
To role play the moon landing and imagine a setting.	To design, make and evaluate a moon rocket based on the Saturn V.	To think about turning dreams and aspirations into reality.

<b>Spark</b> Multi-sensory topic immersion: film footage, music, darkened classroom, night sky with glow in the dark stars; The Darkest Dark, by Chris Hadfield.	<b>Learning Celebration</b> Gallery event and display
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<b>Role Playing/Life Skills/Real Learning</b> Astronauts landing on the moon.	<b>Community Cohesion</b> Learning celebration shared with our parent community.
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<b>Out of Classroom Opportunities</b> The "moon".	<b>Home Learning Activity</b> <a href="http://www.spacekids.co.uk/apollo/">http://www.spacekids.co.uk/apollo/</a> <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/solarsystem/space_missions/apollo_11">http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/solarsystem/space_missions/apollo_11</a>
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<b>Computing and E-safety</b> Internet research and safety; use of computing to represent learning.
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<b>Links to discrete subjects:</b> <b>English:</b> biography; setting description; drama - nativity play; fiction - our own story about a star. <b>Design and Technology:</b> design, make and evaluate a moon rocket based on the Saturn V. <b>History:</b> person of significance (Neil Armstrong) in history. <b>Science:</b> everyday materials and their properties. <b>Music:</b> singing nativity play songs. <b>RE:</b> the Christian nativity story.
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<b>British Values</b> British custom and tradition during the Christmas season.
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<b>Promoting Health and Wellbeing</b> Our theme this term has been working together as a team, with particular emphasis on kindness.
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<b>Steps to success</b> Our learning journey began in our classroom, but not as we know it! We returned from lunch to find the lights were off and a magical starry sky had appeared in our reading corner. Footage of galaxies made us feel as though we were travelling through space, whilst magical music greeted our ears. We sat mesmerised by the images and sounds and then when all was calm and quiet, we read the story, The Darkest Dark by Chris Hadfield and discovered how he was inspired to become an astronaut after watching the first moon landing in 1969.  We researched his inspiration, Neil Armstrong and wrote a biography about him.  <i>"I enjoyed this job because I liked finding out extra facts like he left his moon buggy on the moon and my writing is in the gallery on display."</i>  Then, we thought about the transportation used to travel into space, looking in more detail at the space rocket, Saturn V. Using this as our basis, we designed, made and evaluated our own rockets.
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This prompted us to think about materials and their properties and we considered the way that some materials can change shape through stretching, bending and twisting, for example, and how this makes them suitable for different purposes.

We wondered what it might be like to have been Neil Armstrong or Buzz Aldrin and so we dressed up as astronauts and role played our own moon landings, travelling in a lunar landing module, stepping out and walking on the moon, putting in our own flag and saying our own famous quotation. This helped us to think about the moon as a setting and back in class, we recounted our experience, using adjectives and adverbs to describe the setting and our feelings.

*“Those suits were boiling hot!”*

*“This was great because it helped me to think was it would be like to walk on the moon and it was very bumpy.”*



The time passed by and our thoughts turned towards the Christmas season. In RE, we learned about the Christian celebration of Christmas and the nativity story and we performed our version of the story in our play “Shine Star Shine” about the brightest star who forgot how to shine.



To conclude our topic and 2017, we wrote our own stories about a star, so that we could showcase all of the writing ingredients that we had discovered during the year.

*“I loved all of this topic, because it was such a fun way to learn.”*

