






Alien Life

Keywords	Level	Time	Core Skills	Type of Activity
				
Habitable, Life, Extra-terrestrial, Alien, Environment, Solar System, Earth, Art, Creative, Planets	Primary	1h to 1h 30 m	Designing and making	Creative, design and make

Brief Description



A cross-curricular activity on the theme of aliens. Students will use language, mathematical and science 'design and make' skills in activities that use the theme of imaginary aliens. What might an alien look like? Where might it live? How would we know it is alive?

Students should be able to:

- Design and make an imagined alien.
- Find mathematical patterns when making three dimensional shapes from simple materials.
- Identify the characteristics of life.
- Follow instructions to carry out simple experiments.
- Identify factors that would affect the habitability of environments in the solar system.

Older classes will calculate the likelihood of alien life elsewhere using the Drake Equation.

Learning Objectives and Curricular Links







Design and Make Skills:

- handle and manipulate a range of materials and objects

Living Things, Plant and Animal Life:

- (Observe and) ...explore some ways in which plant and animal life is influenced by, or adapted to, environmental conditions.
- Understand that plants use light energy from the Sun

- Come to appreciate that animals depend on plants and indirectly on the Sun for food.
- develop an increasing awareness of plants and animals from wider environments

	<p>Materials</p> <p>Craft materials: foil, pipe cleaners, paper. Images of Living and non-living items</p> <p>Samples of “Martian soil” to be tested</p> <p>Water</p> <p>Magnifying glasses</p>
	<p>Background Information / Skills required</p>
	<p>For teachers: The Drake Equation is explained here. Resources for Message to Space are suitable.</p> <p>Skills required of students: some fine motor skills to twist and shape foil and pipecleaners.</p>
	<p>Summary Activity Description</p>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and discuss fictional aliens 2. Make a 5-point star from paper (older classes) 3. Design and Make aliens from foil and pipe cleaners 4. Identify the main characteristics of living vs non-living things 5. Observe and test “Martian Soil” as a simulation of the Mars Viking Mission experiments 5. Use the Drake Equation (older classes)
	<p>Additional Information / Follow on Activities</p>
	<p>Design an alien with a research theme at UNAWE. ESA Kids “Are We Alone?” Foil Sculptures How many alien worlds exist? Online Interactive from BBC Future Maps of Planets in the Solar System (complete with imagined aliens)</p>