

Reading Comprehension – Interstellar Space Star

A robotic NASA explorer is poised to set sail Monday, July 30 on a mission to catch the solar wind and then return to Earth with a representative sampling of the primordial stuff that seeded the solar system.

Some 4.6 billion years after an interstellar cloud of gas, dust and ice collapsed and spawned the Sun and its attendant planets, the spacecraft will blast off in late July for a distant space harbour where conditions remain much the same as those at hand when the solar system formed.

Pristine material tossed off the turbulent sun then will be snatched up before the spacecraft swings back by Earth, flinging a sample return capsule toward a daring helicopter recovery over the Utah desert in September 2004.

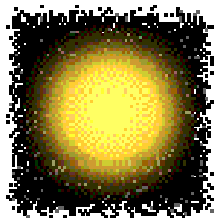
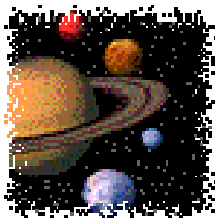
The scientific prize: A cache of interplanetary matter that could enable 21st century researchers to decipher the elemental and isotopic make-up of the original solar nebula.

1. What is solar wind? _____

2. According to Scientists, how long ago did the 'Big Bang' take place? _____

3. Why is it important to know how the Solar System was formed? _____

4. Why is material just falling off of the Sun? _____



Words & Word Origins

Complete the sentences below with “saw” or “seen”.

1. I _____(saw/seen) the shooting star last night.
2. I _____(saw/seen) the Aurora Australis when my family and I went star gazing.
3. The astronauts were asked to describe what they had _____(saw/seen).
4. The astronomers were delighted when they _____(saw/seen) the photographs sent back by the satellite.

Use each word from the box below only once to complete the sentences.

zodiac asterix astronomer telescopes
astrologer astronaut

1. The _____ studied the night sky from her space observatory.
2. Huge _____ are used to explore far-off galaxies.
3. The signs of the _____ are ancient names for the constellations based on animal figures.
4. An _____ is a star-shaped punctuation mark.
5. The _____ steered his spaceship through the asteroid belt.
6. The _____ foretold the future by studying the stars.

Year 9 Homework Sheet for Week 8

Name: _____

Critical Reading

Includes – Novels, non-fiction books, magazines, newspapers and as negotiated with teacher

Book: _____

Author: _____

In your own words, summarise your reading for this week.

Spelling		
a	b	c
pole	reusable	Venus
probes	separation	weightlessness
proton	signals	zodiac
race	spacecraft	anemone
radar	sphere	delirious
rays	splashdown	imbecile
refired	stargazer	pirouette
remain	stowaway	procrastinate
remote	sulphur	susceptible
rescue	surrounded	trepidation

Zodiac Spelling

Circle the correctly spelt word in each group of words below.

Piceies	Peiceis	Pisces
Saggitarius	Sagittarius	Sagitarious
Scorpio	Scropeo	Scorpioe
Aiers	Aries	Aeires

Common Curriculum Elements

CCE Number 38 is **Synthesising**. This CCE is all about putting things together to create a product. This week your task is to make as many words as you can using the following letters:

E R K T C A B D O

Who is the target audience? How can you tell?

Would you recommend this reading to your friends?

Why/why not?

Parent Comment & Signature: _____

Teacher Comment & Signature: _____
