

Activity 4

THE SCIENCE BIT



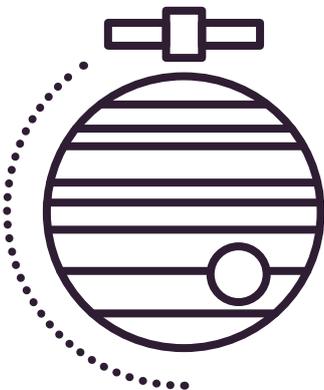
Thanks for helping me with my weather in space curiosity challenge. I've been so impressed with all your hard work!

It's been really interesting looking into how we monitor our weather here on Earth and how it differs from other planets. Before I go, here's a few more interesting weather facts for you!

WHAT ARE SATELLITES?

Man-made satellites are used for communication, navigation and monitoring changes here on Earth. They are also used for space exploration and send us lots of information about other planets and galaxies. They come in many shapes and sizes – the smallest are the size of a mobile phone!

Visit Nasa.gov to learn all about different missions and types of satellite.



WHAT IS THE WEATHER LIKE ON EARTH?

There are three main types of cloud – puffy and cotton-like cumulus ones that normally mean fair weather, flat and grey sheets called stratus that cover most of the sky and usually mean rain and cirrus clouds that are feathery wisp's high in the sky.

Rainbows form when sunlight shines through water, bending the light. White light is actually made up of lots of colours, which are split when they travel through glass or water – blue and purple bend most, so they are seen at the bottom of the rainbow, red and orange bend least, so we see them at the top of the rainbow.



HOW DIFFERENT ARE OTHER PLANETS?

We find life on Earth in all sorts of unexpected places. In very cold climates, plants and animals can go 'dormant', meaning they have a very low level of activity and some animals (including Arctic fish and some insects) have natural anti-freeze to stop ice forming inside their bodies. In hot, dry deserts, some animals have huge ears to cool them down and many are nocturnal (they come out at night). Under the deepest oceans, it is dark and cold, with high pressure from the weight of the water above. Species that live here are sometimes transparent (see-through), some are gigantic and many look like nothing we have ever seen before!