

## *A Trip to the Moon* (dir. Georges Méliès, 1902)

Lesson by Michael Aitchison, Teach First

English,  
Key Stage 3

Students explore the concept of tourism and exploration in space, considering the dangers and possibilities of space travel. Using *A Trip to the Moon* as a starting board, students use writing and oral presentations to present information about an imagined space voyage.

### Lesson Objectives

- To produce a travel brochure for an exotic space trip
- To role-play as journalists and astronauts in a media press conference

### You will need...

DVD of *A Trip to the Moon*  
Post-it notes

### Curriculum Links

- Write accurately, fluently, effectively and at length for pleasure and information through drawing on knowledge of literary and rhetorical devices from their reading and listening to enhance the impact of their writing
- Speak confidently and effectively including through using Standard English confidently in a range of formal and informal contexts, including classroom discussion

## Activities

### TRAILER: Safety First

Students are shown *A Trip to the Moon* and are tasked to fill in information in two columns: fun & interesting and dangerous. The fun & interesting column will contain elements of the astronauts' trip to the moon that are either fun for the participants, or of interest to the people of Earth. These are the benefits of the trip, and suggest that the trip was a good idea. The dangerous column shows the negative side of the trip, and contains all elements of danger that the astronauts come across during their voyage.

The class then discusses these findings in order to come to a decision regarding whether the pros of the trip outweigh the cons, or vice-versa.

### MAIN ATTRACTION: Travel brochure

Students are told that they have been tasked to create a travel brochure about potential future trips to the moon. Students are to use the lists they created in the opening credits to inform potential astronauts about what to expect during their trip, but also the dangers that they need to prepare themselves for.

This could be planned extra-curricular with the science department, to add an element of realism for the students, as they can become more aware of the realities of space travel, the time involved in the journey, and the preparations undergone by astronauts today.

### END CREDITS: Media frenzy

The classroom is then set up with chairs at the front in the style of a press conference. Students write down questions they would like to ask the returning astronauts from the film on post-it notes. Students are encouraged to write open questions that could lead to longer responses from the astronauts.

A selection of students then role-play of "hot-seat" the roles of the astronauts at the front of the class, which the rest of the class acts as journalists asking their questions.



Film  
Forever

# SCI-FI

## DAYS OF FEAR AND WONDER

### Extras

#### Read

*From the Earth to the Moon* by Jules Verne (1865)

*Around the Moon* by Jules Verne (1870)

#### Watch

*Destination Moon* (Irving Pichel, 1950)

*Cosmic Voyage* (Nasili Zhuravlyov, 1936)

*Moon* (Duncan Jones, 2009)