



Teacher Resource

Aliens

Focus Questions

Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Which former US President made comments about aliens recently?
2. What is the region around a star where temperatures are "just right"?
3. What do scientists look for when searching for life on other planets?
4. Do you think there is life on other planets? In pairs, discuss whether you think there might be intelligent life in space.
5. What message would you send to aliens?

Activity: See, Think and Wonder

After watching the BTN Aliens story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What do you WONDER about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?



Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN Aliens story. Record the main points of the discussion on a mind map. Here are some questions to guide the discussion:

- What words do associate with aliens?
- What do you think aliens might look like and why?
- Why are space scientists interested in finding life on other planets?
- What conditions do scientists look for when searching for life on other planets?
- What are technosignatures?
- Do you think there is life on other planets? Give reasons for your answer.

EPISODE 4

24 February 2026

KEY LEARNING

Students will learn about the signs of life that scientists look for on other planets.

CURRICULUM

Science – Year 5

The Earth is part of a system of planets orbiting around a star (the sun).

Scientific knowledge is used to solve problems and inform personal and community decisions.

Science – Years 5 & 6

With guidance, pose clarifying questions and make predictions about scientific investigations.

Activity: Word Cloud

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN Aliens story and create a word cloud. A word cloud is a visual made up of important/key words relating to a topic. Ask students to think of words they associate with the aliens. Create a word cloud using a free online word cloud creator such as [Word It Out](#). Working in pairs, students can clarify the meanings of the words included in their word clouds.



Activity: Choose a Project

Individually or in small groups, students will choose one of the following projects to work on and then present their findings to the class.

Artist's impression of an alien

What do aliens look like?
Draw your impression of an alien. What has shaped your idea of an alien's appearance?

Science Fiction story

Write a science fiction story about aliens. Think about how you will develop alien characters and what interesting situation, problem or conflict will occur in your story.

What does an astrobiologist do?

Find out what an astrobiologist does and produce a poster that explains their job.

Life on other planets

What kinds of planets could support alien life? Research one of the planets in the solar system. What characteristics would an extraterrestrial life form need to survive on the planet?

Activity: Dig deeper with these NASA videos



Is there potential for life on Europa?
We asked a NASA expert
Watch this [NASA video](#) to learn more!

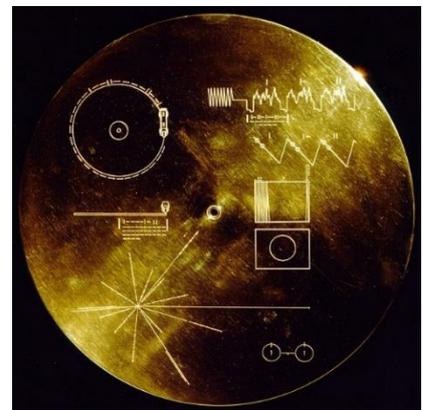


Do aliens exist? We ask a NASA astronaut
Watch this [NASA video](#) to learn more!

Activity: Voyager's Golden Record

Both Voyager 1 and 2 carry a *Golden Record* that contains sounds and images that portray life on Earth and are intended for any intelligent extraterrestrial life form who may find them. Watch the BTN [Voyager Signal](#) story to learn more, then ask students to answer the following questions:

- What is the *Golden Record* onboard Voyager? Write a brief explanation.
- Why did scientists decide to send it into space?
- What information does it contain? Give some examples. Here is [more information](#) about what's on the *Golden Record*.
- What would you include on a *Golden Record*? Give reasons for your answer.
- What message would you send to aliens? What would you want them to know about Earth?
- What does the *Golden Record* tell us about human's curiosity and hope about finding alien life?



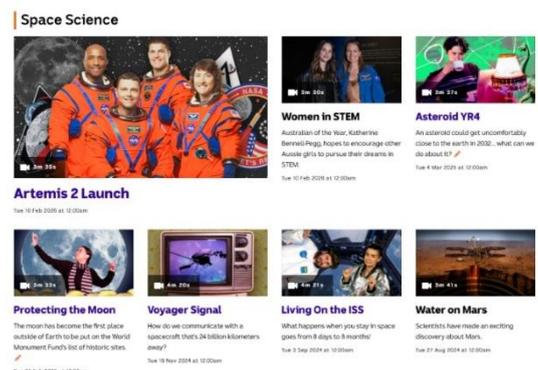
Sounds of Earth record cover

BTN Space Science stories

Visit BTN's collection of stories which focus on space science and space exploration. After watching any one of the BTN videos ask students to respond to the discussion questions

To find the discussion questions and teacher resources go to the related BTN Classroom Episode and download the Episode Package.

[Link to collection of BTN Space Science stories](#)



Useful Websites

- [UFOs Uncovered](#) – BTN
- [Alien Hunt](#) – BTN
- [UFO Hearing](#) – BTN
- [Can we find life?](#) – NASA