



ACTIVITY 1

UNDERSTANDING WHAT YOU READ

How much do you understand about what you read? Fill in the gaps in the text below with the facts and words that make sense. Check with the text on the NiE page to see if it matches with the original text.

EVEN though most of the universe is empty space, called a _____, it does not mean that _____ is completely void. There are many beautiful, strange and mysterious _____ out there. Some we already know about but more of what's out there in space is being _____ every week.

'Space' begins about _____ km above the _____, where the shell of air around our _____ disappears. At night space appears as a _____ blanket dotted with _____ but there's more to it than that.

In the tiny patch of deep-sky that we think of as the entire _____ observable to us, is hundreds of billions of galaxies of which approximately 8700 have been identified. Each one of those _____ contains hundreds of billions of stars, just like our own _____ Way.



ACTIVITY 2

WHAT IS IT?

Scientists have identified many things out in space. Can you match the objects with what they are?

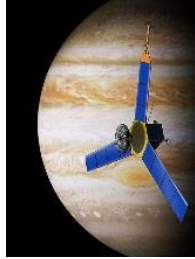
Asteroid	Our galaxy
Black hole	A rock or minor planet orbiting the Sun.
Comet	The remnants of a dead star. They are incredibly compact and spin very quickly, some spin 100 times a second.
Galaxy	A region of space around a very small and extremely massive object within which the gravitational field is so strong that not even light can escape.
Meteor	A steady flow of particles streaming out from the Sun in all directions.
Milky Way	A shooting star, observed when a particle of dust enters into the Earth's atmosphere.
Nebulae	A very distant, immensely bright object.
Neutron star	A cloud of gas and dust.
Quasars	A group of stars, gas and dust held together by gravity.
Solar wind	A small, frozen mass of dust and gas revolving around the sun.



ACTIVITY 3

IDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS

The photos below are of man-made spacecraft. Can you identify what they are from the word worm below?



**Sputnik1 JunoSpaceProbeMarsExplorationRoverHubbleSpace
TelescopeGlobalPositioningSystemSatelliteSpaceShuttle**

Choose one of these spacecraft and do some research to find out more.



ACTIVITY 4

WORDS AT WORK

In Wordy News this week we defined the word ALLAY which was used in the following way:

**Govt moves to allay
growing concerns**

- The following is a list of synonyms for the word allay but all the vowels have gone missing. Fill in the gaps to complete the list.

all _ v _ t _
c _ lm
_ s _
l _ ss _ n
m _ t _ g _ t _

m _ ll _ fy
p _ c _ fy
_ b _ t _
c _ mp _ s _
d _ cr _ _ s _

- Use the following antonyms to replace the word ALLAY in the headline. Re-write the headline and decide which one sounds best.

**aggravate, agitate, incite, increase, intensify, irritate,
upset, worry, worsen, enlarge, provoke, stir, excite**

example

**Govt moves to ~~allay~~ exacerbate
growing concerns**

- Change one letter in the word ALLAY to make a new word meaning:
 - a passage
 - a substance composed of two or more metals
 - a person, group, or nation that is associated with another



ACTIVITY 5

CHECK IT OUT

In the early hours of the morning, a light show will take place in the form of meteor showers on October 22 and December 15. Read the instructions on how best to view meteor showers then answer the questions below.

- Check the weather conditions
- Meteor showers are usually best between 2am and sunrise. If you're only going to observe for a few minutes or half an hour, observe around 4am.
- Rug up. It can be very uncomfortable if you're cold at night while you're looking at the stars
- Bring a friend. The only thing worse than being cold at night is being alone with nobody to talk to and you want to be able to share the really bright meteors with somebody else.
- Take a blanket, pillow and reclining chair (you'll get a sore neck otherwise)
- Find a dark sky location, the darker the better
- Give your eyes at least five minutes to adjust
- Scan the sky, if you just look toward the radiant point you could miss something
- Every time you see a bright meteor, you've got to say WAAUUUGGGHHHHHHH! It's a rule.

Dr Ian Musgrave

1. Why is it a good idea to take a pillow?
2. Why do you think the darker the sky the better?
3. What should you adjust?
4. What weather conditions would affect your viewing?
5. To avoid loneliness what should you do?
6. What is the point in the sky, from which meteors appear to originate?
7. What's the most important rule?



ACTIVITY 6

NEWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Lunar event once in a blood moon

Write a brief story about the lunar eclipse that occurred on Wednesday October 8.

Write a caption for the photo below.



Photo: Alistair Brightman / Fraser Coast Chronicle