

Michelle Cooper

## Space Exploration 90 min

Objective:

By the end of this lesson students will be able to:

- Identify the first person in space.
- Identify the first person on the Moon.
- Describe three aspects of space travel.
- Creatively plan a mission to one of the planets in the solar system.

Big Idea:

Students will explore the magic of space exploration and celebrate the historic milestone reached by Neil Armstrong while planning the next voyage into space.

### 1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 10 min

Students will view the following introductory video.

[The Astronaut's Guide to Life in Space](#)

Discussion: Ask the students to share their impressions of life in space.

- What would the students enjoy the most about space?
- What would they dislike the most about space travel?
- What challenges would they face?

## Resources

- The Astronaut's Guide to Life in Space <https://vimeo.com/27738605>
- NASA Space Tourism Photos <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/visions-of-the-future/>
- NASA Space Sounds <http://createdigitalmusic.com/2014/10/nasa-posts-huge-library-space-sounds-voure-free-use/>

## 2. Investigation and New Learning 50 min

Students will read and investigate the Wonderopolis article [\*Who Was the First Person in Space?\*](#)

In the 'Try It Out' section of the page, students will read and answer the following question.

- If manned missions to Mars or other planets become possible one day, what planet might you want to visit? Jump online to check out [Planets for Kids](#), a website dedicated to exploring astronomy from a kid's perspective. Check out the information about the planets in our solar system. Which one would you most like to explore? Create a video explaining your choice of planet and the reasons you chose that planet. You may use NASA posters and space sounds found in the resource section.

## Resources

- Who Was the First Person in Space <http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/who-was-the-first-person-in-space>
- NASA Space Sounds <http://createdigitalmusic.com/2014/10/nasa-posts-huge-library-space-sounds-voure-free-use/>
- NASA Space Posters <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/visions-of-the-future/>
- Planets for Kids <http://www.planetsforkids.org/>
- Animoto <https://animoto.com/>

## 3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Students share their videos and discuss their choices.