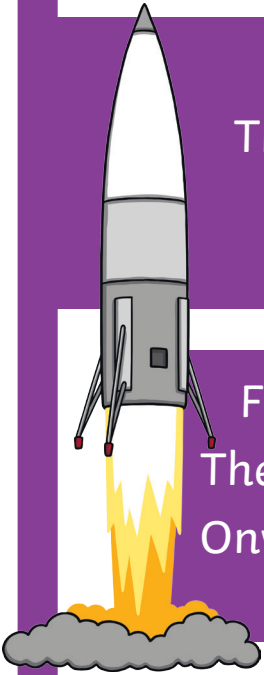


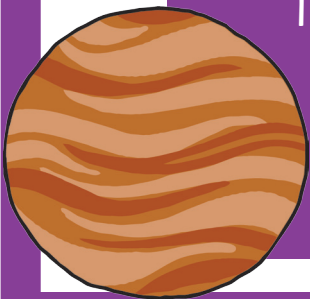
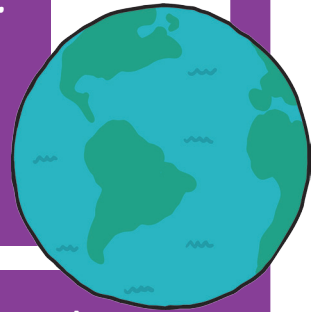
Blast Off!



The rocket hums quietly. The engines now roar.
They check all the buttons, the seats and the door.
Mission Control starts the final countdown;
TVs are turned on all over the town.

For a moment it's quiet, then whoosh they are gone.
The ground shrinks behind them. The engines power on.
Onwards and upwards through the clouds they now go;
Houses and buildings left far down below.

They look out of the window as darkness comes near.
The Earth looks so tiny – there's nothing to fear.
The roar has now gone; it is quiet instead.
A helmet sits tightly on an astronaut's head.



The planets fly by them – the colours so bright;
Saturn and Jupiter shine in the night.
Ruby red Mars now comes into view.
A quick trip to Venus and Uranus too.

The stars twinkle brightly still so far away;
Maybe a rocket will reach them one day.
Returning to Earth, journey's over for now.
Sights so fantastic you can only say 'wow!



Questions

1. Who starts the final countdown? Tick **one**.

- the rocket
- people on the TV
- Mission Control

2. Number the phrases from the poem to show the order they appear. The first one has been done for you.

- the ground shrinks beneath them
- TVs are turned on
- Mars now comes into view
- the journey is over for now
- 1** the rocket hums quietly

3. Find and copy two planets that are mentioned in the fourth verse.

4. Which word from the last verse describes how the stars twinkle?

5. Write a new title for this poem

6. Would you like to go to space? Explain your answer.

Answers

- Who starts the final countdown? Tick **one**.
 - the rocket
 - people on the TV
 - Mission Control**
- Number the phrases from the poem to show the order they appear. The first one has been done for you.
 - 3** the ground shrinks beneath them
 - 2** TVs are turned on
 - 4** Mars now comes into view
 - 5** the journey is over for now
 - 1** the rocket hums quietly
- Find and copy two planets that are mentioned in the fourth verse.
Any two of the following: Saturn; Jupiter; Mars; Venus; Uranus.
- Which word from the last verse describes how the stars twinkle?
brightly
- Write a new title for this poem
Pupils' own responses, such as: A Journey to Space
- Would you like to go to space? Explain your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'No I would not like to go to space because it would be really scary going so high up'.