

- For hundreds of years many people have been fascinated by space. Now because of this amazing research people are planning holidays in space!
- In fact it was over 4000 years ago that people first realised that the stars were grouped together. They called them constellations.
- However it wasn't until the 1600s that things started to get really interesting. In 1608 the first telescope was invented which meant that people could get an even closer look at what was happening in space.
- In 1609 Galilei was the first person to ever look at the night sky through a telescope but as a result of all his research, he was arrested in 1633 for saying that the Earth moved around the Sun.
- For over three hundred years scientists carried on researching space but it wasn't until 1961 that the first man was sent up to take a closer look. His name was Yuri Gagarin, he was Russian and he completed one orbit of the Earth in two hours.

Did you know that Yuri Gagarin wasn't the first living thing to be sent into space?

- Fruit flies were sent up in 1947 and Albert the monkey was launched into space in 1949. He travelled a distance of 83 miles from Earth.
- A dog called Laika was then launched into space on board Sputnik 2 in November 1957. She was sent to orbit the Earth but sadly died because it was too hot for her.
- Eight years after Yuri Gagarin orbited the Earth, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed on the Moon in 1969. They set foot on the Moon and filmed what they saw while their fellow astronaut Michael Collins stayed on board Apollo 11.

The first ever space tourist...

- In a plan to make space travel less expensive the space shuttle was designed and launched in 1981. It could be used up to one hundred times and could fly at over 17,000 miles per hour.
- In 2001, millionaire Dennis Tito finally realised his dream to become the first ever space tourist. His ticket cost him over £13,000,000 and for that he had to train for 800 hours and got to spend one week in orbit, mostly visiting the International Space Station. The most expensive holiday ever!

Over to you...

- What would you do if you got to spend a week in space? Where would you travel to and why?

