

We Wonder: Mission to Mars books

These books have been selected to accompany the We Wonder: Mission to Mars challenge. Click here to find out more.

Books for primary

SPACE KIDS
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Die The Land

Space Kids: An Introduction for Young Explorers by Steve Parker and Andrea De Santis

Beautifully rendered illustrations spark curiosities and imaginations, while simple text creates a sense of wonder and fuels an appreciation for what it means to be a part of the universe's complex system. Truly a must-have introduction for any budding young explorer.



How Was That Built? by Roma Agrawal

Join Roma Agrawal, the award-winning young structural engineer who worked on The Shard, for an exciting behind-the-scenes look at some of the world's most amazing landmarks.



An Engineer Like Me by Shini Somara and Nadja Sarell

Zara is curious about everything! Travelling around the city with her gran, she sees all kinds of fascinating things. Inventive illustrations and an empowering story combine to introduce young readers to the world of engineering, creative thinking and problem-solving.



Planetarium by Raman Prinja and Chris Wormell

Step inside the pages of this beautiful book to discover galleries of galactic matter, expertly curated to bring you the experience of a fascinating exhibition from the comfort of your own home.



Dr Maggie's Grand Tour of the Solar System by Maggie Aderin-Pocock and Chelen Ecija

This mind-blowing book invites readers to join BBC presenter and renowned space scientist Dr Maggie Aderin-Pocock (MBE) on an epic journey through the Solar System, travelling to places where no human has been before.



Secret Science: The Amazing World Beyond Your Eyes by Dara O Briain (with Sally Morgan)

So you think everyday life is boring?! WHAT?! Hoo-ee, are you wrong! There's so much EXTRAORDINARY science going on right from the minute you wake up to when you go to sleep. In *Secret Science*, Dara O Briain takes you on a journey from the comfort of your favourite chair to the incredible science behind your everyday life and on into the future!

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The Jamie Drake Equation by Christopher Edge

A compelling sci-fi story about a boy called Jamie whose father is an astronaut. While his father is completing important work aboard the International Space Station, Jamie is left figuring out life at home, and one day he stumbles across clues to alien lifeforms for himself. This story is packed with real space science in a way that is accessible to children.



Curiosity: The Story of a Mars Rover by Markus Motum

A stylishly illustrated non-fiction book about the search for life on Mars, told from the unique perspective of NASA's Mars rover, Curiosity. Discover the incredible story of the search for life on Mars, told from the perspective of the Mars Rover sent to explore the red planet.



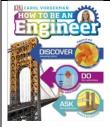
George's Secret Key to the Universe by Lucy and Stephen Hawking

George's pet pig breaks through the fence into the garden next door, introducing him to his new neighbours: the scientist, Eric, his daughter, Annie, and a super-intelligent computer called Cosmos. From that moment on, George's life will never be the same again, for Cosmos can open a portal to any point in outer space...



How to be an Astronaut and Other Space Jobs by Dr Sheila Kanani, illustrated by Sol Linero

Do you have what it takes to become an astronaut, a spaceship engineer or to work in Mission Control? Find out about space and all the incredible space jobs you could do, from training to be a space chef or designing spacesuits to searching for new planets we could live on, or even blasting into space and living aboard the International Space Station.



How to be an Engineer by Carol Vorderman

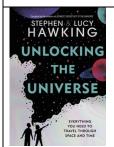
Find out how engineers use STEM subjects and their imaginations to fix problems, and take inspiration from engineering heroes. This book encourages you to investigate, with amazing projects using things from around your home. Learn about materials by crushing loo rolls, learn about jet propulsion with balloons, and build a robot arm from rulers.

Books for secondary



Where Once We Stood: Stories of Apollo Astronauts who Walked on the Moon by Christopher Riley and Martin Impey

Combining unique illustrations with the words spoken by the astronauts on the lunar surface, this book offers a rare insight into what it really felt like to live and work on another world, something that those who'd experienced it often found hard to convey.



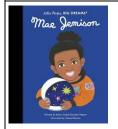
Unlocking the Universe by Stephen and Lucy Hawking

What would it have been like to walk the lava-filled earth four and a half billion years ago? Or take your first step on the surface of the moon? And what would you do if robots took over the world? Together, Lucy and Stephen have collected an incredible wealth of information about everything from life on Mars to the secrets of black holes.



Heretics! The Wondrous (and Dangerous) Beginnings of Modern Philosophy by Steven Nadler and Ben Nadler

This entertaining and enlightening graphic narrative tells the exciting story of the 17th-century thinkers who challenged authority, sometimes risking excommunication, prison, and even death, to lay the foundations of modern philosophy and science and help usher in a new world.



Mae Jemison: Volume 85 by Maria Isabel Sanchez Vegara

This book explores the life of Mae Jemison, scientist, astronaut and the first ever black woman in space. This inspiring book features stylish and quirky illustrations and extra facts at the back, including a biographical timeline with historical photos and a detailed profile of the ground breaking astronaut's life.



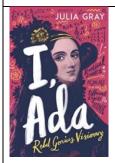
Joan Procter, Dragon Doctor: The Woman Who Loved Reptiles

Back in the days of long skirts and afternoon teas, young Joan Procter entertained the most unusual party guests: slithery and scaly ones, who turned over teacups and crawled past the crumpets... With a lively text and vibrant illustrations, scientist and writer Patricia Valdez and illustrator Felicita Sala bring to life Joan Procter's inspiring story of passion and determination.



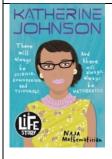
Hidden Figures: The Untold Story of the African American Women who Helped win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly

Set amid the civil rights movement, this is the true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program. Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women.



I, Ada by Julia Gray

Ada Byron is rich and clever, but she longs to be free. Then she meets a man whose invention might just change the world - and he needs her visionary brilliance to bring it to life. A wonderfully witty and poignant portrayal of the young life of Ada Lovelace, the 19th-century mathematician who is hailed as the world's first computer programmer.



Katherine Johnson by Leila Rasheed

Born in the USA, at a time when racial segregation was considered perfectly acceptable and women were often treated as intellectually inferior, Katherine had to fight for every bit of recognition she got. But hers was a discreet battle and one in which she relied on her talent and hard work to get to the top.