The morning of the space era

At the beginning of the class the teacher divides the students into 3 groups, handing out a respective worksheet to each of the groups.

The task is supposed to take up to 10-15 minutes.

The students should write their answers in a special field at the bottom of each worksheet. The number of the letters in the answer is specified. However, the task is developed in the way that the students can still get wrong answers, as the other (incorrect) variants can also make up different words (e.g. ‘open’, ‘take’ or ‘plan’ instead of ‘stop’).

After the students have finished doing the tasks they get together in the centre of the hall and the teacher divides the class into new groups, so that each new group consists of representatives of all the previous groups.

The teacher sends the new groups to different parts of the hall, so that no one could overhear someone else’s ideas.

As the new groups are formed the members share the words that they have got with each other. Each group individually tries to compose a sentence using the three words that they have.

When the task is accomplished everyone gets together in the centre of the hall and shares their ideas.

Within their groups the students start composing a message to extra-terrestrial intelligence using the sentence that they got as a motto for the message. The task supposes them to write the history of space exploration. As the students continue working in groups, they need to share the different information that they got during the previous stage with the other members of their respective groups. It is possible to write the text of the message on the target worksheet or cut out the necessary information from the other worksheets and glue the pieces onto the target worksheet.

**Group I – The first artificial satellites**

*Do the tasks using museum exhibits as reference. When you are done put the letters that you get as a result of each assignment together to make a word.*

*Put the passages in the correct chronological order:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **S** | The **first** artificial satellite was launched on the **4 october 1957**. It orbited the Earth about fourteen hundred times. The satellite existed for 92 days and the whole world watched its flight. |
| **T** | The **second** satellite was launched on the **3 november 1957**. There was the first space traveller onboard. It was a dog. Her name was **Laika**. The flight proved that a living being could be sent to space. |
| **A** | The first automated space station with a complex programme of studies was launched on **15 may 1958**. It stayed in orbit till April 6, 1960. |
| **R** | In **19 august 1960** a spaceship-satellite was launched from Baikonur cosmodrome. Onboard there were two famous dogs: **Belka and Strelka**. Their flight lasted for 25 hours. They made 18 orbits round the Earth and successfully returned to Earth. |

The sequence of the letters in column 1 is: - **T-A-R-S => the answer is OP**

* **S-T-A-R => the answer is ST**
* **R-A-T-S => the answer is PL**
* **T-S-A-R => the answer is TA**

*The name of the first space-traveller was:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **E** | Belka |
| **K** | Strelka |
| **O** | Laika |
| **A** | Kusaika |

*What cosmodrome was used to launch the first artificial satellite?*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **N** | Plesetsk |
| **P** | Baikonur |
| **E** | Kapustin-Yar |
| **Y** | Vostochny |

**The word that you got is:**

**STOP**

**Group II – The first manned flights**

*Do the tasks using museum exhibits as reference. When you are done put the letters that you get as a result of each assignment together to make a word.*

Nowadays everyone in the world knows the name of the first cosmonaut. His name is **Yuri Gagarin**.

*His flight to space was on:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A** | March 14, 1960 |
| **G** | April 12, 1961 |
| **R** | January 20, 1962 |
| **O** | November 4, 1958 |

…and lasted for 108 minutes. The main task of the flight was to prove that Man can fly to space. He made one orbit of the Earth.

The first cosmonauts flew to space onboard the spaceships called Vostok. Their spacesuits were orange because the first cosmonauts returned back to Earth:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Y** | inside a capsule |
| **U** | by means of a jet-propelled backpack |
| **R** | with the help of a parachute |
| **I** | inside a reusable rocket |

…So this colour helped the rescue team to find a cosmonaut after the landing.

The first walk in outer space was made on the 18th of March 1965. And the cosmonaut who made this walk was:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **R** | Yuri Gagarin |
| **MB** | Pavel Belyayev |
| **L** | Gherman Titov |
| **EA** | Aleksey Leonov |

…The first walk lasted for about 25 minutes.

It is clear that you cannot open the capsule in the outer space. Otherwise you will let the air go out of the capsule. So a cosmonaut needs some kind of protection from the outer space. This protection is a special camera called:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **A** | a spacesuit |
| **T** | an airlock |
| **AL** | a spacelock |
| **F** | an airtight |

The same equipment was used by **Aleksey Leonov** during the first space walk in 1965.

**The word that you got is:**

**GREAT**

**Group III – The first probes to the Moon**

*Do the tasks using museum exhibits as reference. When you are done put the letters that you get as a result of each assignment together to make a word.*

We live on a planet. Its name is the Earth. But there are a lot of other objects in the Universe. Our nearest neighbour is a natural satellite the Moon.

*Put the passages in the correct chronological order:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **K** | The **first** probe to the Moon was launched on the **2 january 1959**. However, it didn’t reach the Moon because \* |
| **Y** | The **second** probe was launched on **13 september 1959** and it had a special pennant. It consisted of pentagonal elements with the date of the launch and the name of the country. |
| **S** | On **4 october 1959** the **third** probe flew around the Moon and took pictures of the back (dark)\* side of the Moon. |

The sequence of the letters in column 1 is: - **S-K-Y => the answer is ST**

* **K-Y-S => the answer is SI**
* **Y-K-S => the answer is RA**
* **S-Y-K => the answer is CA**

*\*Probe # 1 didn’t reach the Moon because:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **DIA** | It collapsed during the launch |
| **LEN** | It flew past the Moon |
| **ATI** | It collided with an asteroid |
| **PSU** | It stopped responding |

*The back side of the Moon is called dark because:*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ON** | It is always dark there, the sun light doesn’t reach this part |
| **TE** | Dark forces use it a stronghold |
| **CE** | It is not visible from the Earth |
| **LE** | The soil of that part is mostly of dark colour |

**The word that you got is:**

**SILENCE**

**MESSAGE TO EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE**

**STOP THE GREAT SILENCE!**

We, the people of the planet, which we call the Earth, say that we exist and look for intelligence in outer space. This is the history of how space exploration started:

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