Canonbury Home Learning

Year 4 reading Friday 9th July 2020

Steppingstone activity

LO: To retrieve key information





SCIENCE NEWS

UP, UP AND AWAY

THE race to get tourists into space is hotting up! The latest idea is a luxury flight in a hot air balloon capsule.

The Neptune capsule will have space for eight passengers, plus the crew. It hangs underneath a balloon the size of a football stadium filled with hydrogen.

The plan is for the huge balloon to drift upwards to the edge of space, reaching a height of 30 kilometres above the Earth. There, space tourists will be able to look back at the Earth or out to dark space and the sight of millions of stars.

Because the capsule stays within the Earth's atmosphere, no special suits or training are needed. Anyone can give it a go - as long as you have the cash!

Although the price hasn't been decided yet, the six-hour luxury flight is likely to cost more than £100,000.

One downside (apart from the price) may be the method of landing back on Earth. The balloon drifts back to Earth and splashes down into the sea. Passengers, crew, capsule and balloon are then recovered by ship.

Space Perspective, the company behind the idea, is planning unmanned test flights next year. But it has ambitious plans to operate up to 500 flights from sites across the USA by 2024.

If all goes well, peeking into space could be as easy as flying abroad in a few years' time!





Steppingstone Questions:

- 1. What is the name of the invention?
- 2. How many passengers can it hold?
- 3. What is the balloon filled with?
- 4. How far above Earth will it be able to go?
- 5. How much is it going to cost?
- 6. How will it land on Earth afterwards?
- 7. What is the name of the company that made it?
- 8. When will people be able to fly?

CANONBURY PRIMARY SCHOOL Create, discover and succeed together

Main activity:

Year 4 reading Friday 9th July 2020

LO: To use all of my comprehension skills

Task: Read this news article and answer the questions attached.

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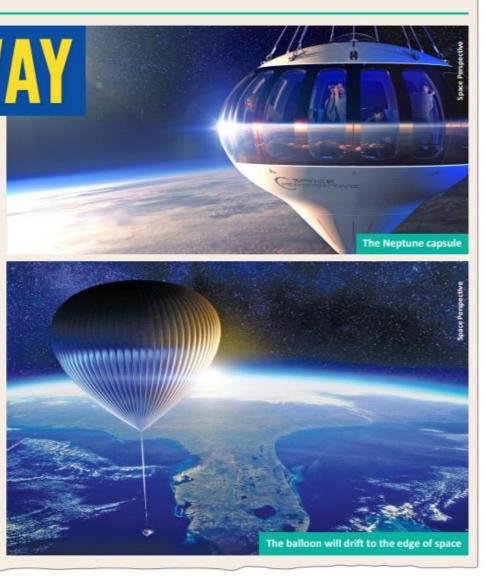
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Main activity questions:

Questions on: 'Up, up and away'	
1) What is the name of this invention and who is making it?	6) How high will the balloon travel, in kilometres?
The capsule by	7) A passenger aeroplane travels at 10km above the earth. The International Space Station travels at 400km above the Earth.
2) The journalist mentions that there is a race. A race to do what?	Do you think you could say you've seen space after a trip in this balloon?
3) The race is "hotting up". What do you think this means?	8) Imagine you were considering a flight in the Neptune capsule. Make a list of pros and cons below.
	Pros — reasons to give it a go Cons — reasons not to do it
4) The Neptune project is at which stage?	
An early idea	
In testing	
Ready to launch	
Launched	
5) What will take the capsule up into the atmosphere?	