

## Year 3 General Studies

# Exploration of Space

### Telescopes

In 1609 an Italian physicist and astronomer named Galileo became the first person to point a telescope skyward. Although that telescope was small and the images fuzzy, Galileo was able to make out mountains and craters on the moon, as well as a ribbon of diffuse light arching across the sky -- which would later be identified as our Milky Way galaxy. After Galileo's and, later, Sir Isaac Newton's time, astronomy flourished as a result of larger and more complex telescopes. With advancing technology, astronomers discovered many faint stars and the calculation of stellar distances.



### Satellites

Usually, the word "satellite" refers to a machine that is launched into space and moves around Earth or another body in space. Earth and the moon are examples of natural satellites. Thousands of artificial, or man-made, satellites orbit Earth. Some take pictures of the planet that help meteorologists predict weather and track hurricanes. Some take pictures of other planets, the sun, black holes, dark matter or faraway galaxies.



A group of more than 20 satellites make up the Global Positioning System, or GPS. If you have a GPS receiver, these satellites can help figure out your exact location.

### Apollo 11

Apollo 11 went up to space on 16 July 1969, carrying three astronauts: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin and Michael Collins. On 20 July 1969, Armstrong and Aldrin became the first humans to land on the moon, while Collins stayed in orbit around the Moon.



The flight was part of the Space Race. It finished the plan set by John F. Kennedy in 1961 to "land a man on the moon, and return him safely to the Earth", before the 1960s ended.

## Exploration of Space

### Questions

1. **Advancements in telescopes saw astronomy flourish.**

**True / False**

2. **How many artificial, or man-made, satellites orbit Earth? (Circle the correct answer)**

**twenty / hundreds / thousands**

3. **What did Galileo discover when he pointed a telescope skyward?**

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4. **Apollo 11 was the first rocket to land people on the moon and return them to Earth safely.**

**True / False**

5. **Why are satellites important?**

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6. **On 20 July 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin became the first humans to land on the moon.**

**True / False**