

York's Universe

Written and Illustrated by Heidi Goh

Published by Windy Hollow Books 2012

Teachers' notes

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Topics for discussion / Activities:

* How did York travel into the cosmos? Jet Pack? Rocket? Flew? Dreamt? ...Imagination.

* Where do you like to go in your imagination?

This discussion can springboard into writing or drawing exercise about where they like to go in their imagination.

* What city is the story set in? Why do you think this?

* What is York's cultural background? Discuss different cultures in the class room and in Australia.

* What starts York's journey of thought? Why do you think this?

Integrate Science topics into the discussion/Activities:

* What is our galaxy called?

* Look at the basic structure of our galaxy.

* Different types of Galaxies. Ring, Spiral, Merging, Barred spiral, elliptical.

* The structure of the cosmos, the picture so far: The cosmos is made of space, or voids which contain super clusters of clusters of galaxies that contain many stars and solar systems usually orbiting a

black hole. Associated Craft activity: Make a model of a galaxy using cut out egg cartoons and coloured pipe cleaners.

* A solar system is a collection of planets orbiting a star.

* The planets in our solar system - colouring in worksheet

<http://www.coloringcastle.com/pdfs/space/solarsystem02.pdf>

<http://www.coloringcastle.com/pdfs/space/planets02.pdf>

* Make a model of our solar system depicting our sun and it's 8 planets

* Solar System Board game

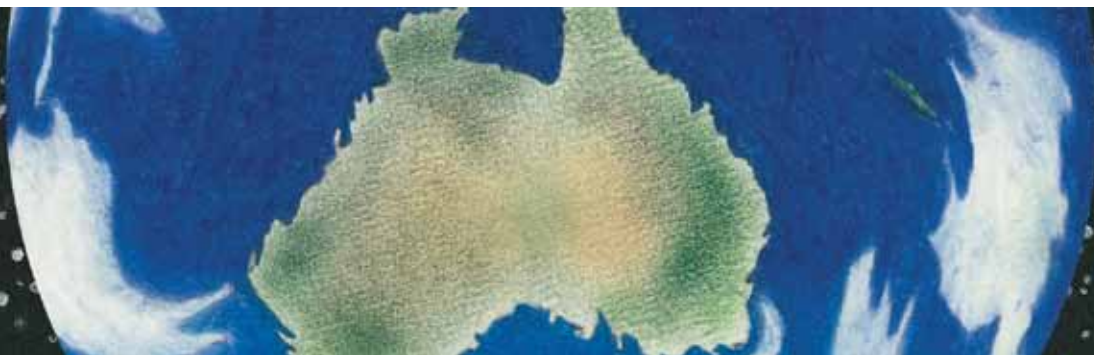
<http://www.astronomy2009.org.za/projects/Images/Projects/SolarSysBrdGame.jpg>

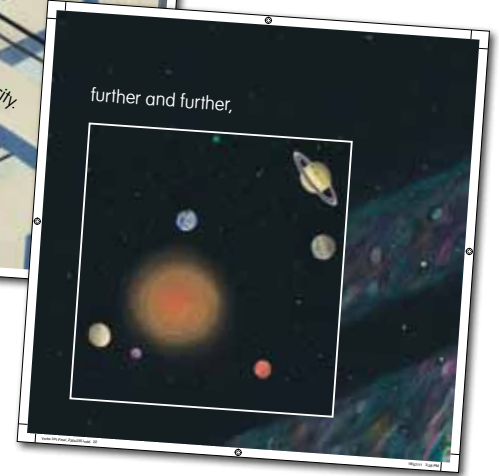
York's Universe Activities Stage 2-6

* Write the story of York's Journey home from space, perhaps he lands on the other side of the world...

* Write a story that includes many of the sounds York hears in his City home.

* Now write a story that includes the sounds he heard in his country dream.





* Write a postcard from York home to his parents, don't forget to use postcard layout and include a picture.

* Draw a cartoon depicting a week in your life; include your usual routines and activities.

* Create a travel advertisement based on 'York's Universe'. Think about the journey he takes and compare it to his everyday life – are there some good selling points expressed in the text?

Comprehension:

Why did York imagine travelling into the cosmos?

After York left Australia place the places he passed in the order he passed them:

- a) Galaxy b) Galactic arm
- c) World d) Solar System

In the first illustration of York's building which room do you think is York's? Give reasons for your answer.

List four things York does in his city home.

York's Universe - Advanced Activities

* Imagine you are York's teacher, tell her story: Where did she come from; why did she move to the city; how did she feel about her new job in the city?

* Put on your Journalist hat for an interview with York and create a newspaper article documenting his experience.

* What do you think the text indicates about city life as opposed to country life? Why?

* Compare the visual styles of the natural world to the styles of the man made world. What comment is being made and how?

* Discuss the use of POV (Point of View) in various illustrations.

* Both York's Universe and Where the Wild Things Are journeys of the imagination. Compare and contrast York's Universe to Where the Wild Things Are. What are the similarities and differences?

* Discuss the concepts to 'the ordinary' and 'the extraordinary' as expressed in York's Universe. What comment is being made about our seemingly ordinary lives?

* Astronomy has been a common fascination of humankind. Research different historical theories of astronomy; include Aboriginal Astronomy and its connection to the Dreamtime.

* Choose a single illustration to use as inspiration for a short story.

