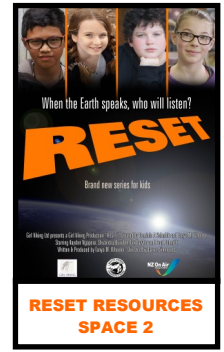


SPACE—ALIEN ENVIRONMENTS:

The third planet from the sun has lots of names. Tellus, Terra, or as we commonly call it, **Earth**. So far, Earth is the only planet that we know of that has life on it. We simply do not know enough about the Universe to know what else is out there, because the distances are too vast to explore yet.

In Science Fiction, many stories, like RESET, explore the “what if?” idea of what might happen if life did exist elsewhere. What would it be like?



ACTIVITY:

We have all seen Science Fiction worlds – from Krypton (Superman’s planet) in the comics and movies, to Star Trek and Star Wars and other shows that explored the galaxy and invented lots of interesting imaginary races and cultures that might exist out there.

- 1) Design your alien world – what is the planet made of? What are its properties? What is the **atmosphere** like? The soil? The temperature? The gravity? The days and nights? Label the design or make notes on a separate page explaining the physical characteristics of your alien planet in a farflung galaxy.
- 2) Think about the planet’s environment. How might it affect the creatures that live there? *For example: If your nights are very long – do your aliens avoid the sun?*
- 3) Do they live on the surface or underground? Have they adapted to breathe different gases? Do they walk on land or swim in water? Do they fly? Are they short or tall? Has their **gravity** affected their movement? Do they crawl or slither perhaps? Do they have **technology**? Think about designing an alien species for your planet that could only have evolved in the **environment** that you created.
- 4) Think about planning and writing a Science Fiction short story set on the world you have created. Use your designs to help you illustrate your short story after you have written it. Use descriptive language to create a sense of place – think about Alien smells, sounds, tastes and textures as well as the sights you can see on your world.
- 5) EXTENSION: Check out the free trial version of an online game called SPORE at <http://www.spore.com/trial>. The game allows you to create alien creatures and adapt their **skeletal structure** and movement in different ways in order to explore how it might change in different environments. *(This trial version takes just over 200MB of memory so check with your teacher or parent first.)*
- 6) EXTENSION 2: If you have access to the full version of the online game SPORE, you can start your alien life form from an amoeba and change its **evolution** depending on the environmental and social conditions. Watch your alien adapt and grow. See how it changes based on altered game conditions.

