INTO THE FUTURE

Living on Mars
(Cats and mice, too?)
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Get creative! Find our new Activity Kits on Highlights.com
SHORT CIRCUIT

Make your way through the circuit board from START to FINISH.
One summer day several years ago, I stood on a Florida beach with hundreds of other adults and kids. We were gathered to watch NASA’s last crewed space shuttle launch.

Because the weather looked iffy, we weren’t sure the launch was going to happen, until it did. There was a countdown, then flashes of flame, vibrations, and lots of noise.

For several minutes after liftoff, cheers went up and down the beach, drowning out the sound of the ocean. We all craned our necks to watch the shuttle soar into the blue sky and disappear, on its way to deliver supplies to the International Space Station.

NASA retired the shuttle program after that. Today, it is focused on sending astronauts back to the Moon and to Mars. NASA thinks that someday it might be possible for people to live on the red planet.

“Living on Mars” (pages 14–19) talks about some of the questions scientists are exploring as they study that possibility.

Would you live on Mars, if you had the chance? What do you think it would be like? I’d love to hear your thoughts or see your drawings.

Space exploration can tickle our imaginations. I can’t wait to see what you are imagining.

Your friend,

Christine

WRITE TO ME
Christine@Highlights.com
I, the moon,
would like it known—I
never follow people home. I
simply do not have the time. And
neither do I ever shine. For what you
often see at night is me reflecting solar
light. And I’m not cheese! No, none of
these: no mozzarellas, cheddars, bries, all
you’ll find here—if you please—are my
dusty, empty seas. And cows do not
jump over me. Now that is simply
lunacy! You used to come and
visit me. Oh do return,
I’m lonely, see.
3, 2, 1, LAUNCH!

Whether it’s a spacecraft carrying astronauts or a satellite hitched to a rocket, getting into space requires a launch. Here are a few locations where spaceflights begin.

Moon Missions and More
All piloted missions to the Moon and space shuttle missions have been launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida. From there, NASA recently completed a flight test of the Artemis I megarocket as part of a plan to send astronauts back to the Moon in 2024. At the massive Kennedy complex, tourists can learn about spaceflight and, if they time it right, even watch a rocket launch.

What’s Up at Wallops
NASA’s Wallops Flight Facility in Virginia has been launching rockets and scientific research missions since 1945, making it one of the world’s oldest launch sites. Wallops also manages NASA’s Scientific Balloon Program, which launches balloons from different locations around the world. The balloons are as thin as plastic wrap but can lift up to 8,000 pounds of equipment into space. When fully inflated, the most commonly used balloon could hold a football field inside it!

Polar Launches
Pacific Spaceport Complex—Alaska (PSCA), on Kodiak Island in Alaska, is a great location for polar launch operations. While rockets launched from there often carry satellites and research equipment, private companies are now testing spacecraft that could carry space tourists. PSCA also launches huge balloons that may one day be able to carry people in a capsule to the very edge of space.
The ducklings on the grounds at Mountfitchet Castle in England have an unusual protector—a Labrador retriever named Fred. Originally built in 1066, the castle is a national Historic Monument. It has been reconstructed and turned into a museum experience with many animals living on the grounds. Last summer, when a mother duck went missing, Fred began looking after her 15 ducklings. The group could often be found snuggling up to Fred in the sun.

8th
It’s No Socks Day! Celebrate the beginning of warmer weather by freeing your feet.

7th
Happy World Laughter Day! To solve the riddle below, use the fractions of the words. The first one has been done for you.

HOW DO YOU MAKE AN OCTOPUS LAUGH?
Last ¼ of ANT
Last ½ of THEN
First ½ of TIME
Last ¼ of LOCK
First ½ of LESSON

29th
On this day 70 years ago, Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary became the first people to reach the top of Mount Everest. The dangerous climb involves facing low oxygen levels and extremely cold, unpredictable weather. At 29,035 feet above sea level, Mount Everest’s peak is commonly considered the highest point on Earth.

29th
MEMORIAL DAY is a day to remember the soldiers who have died while serving in the military. You can honor them by:

• Visiting a military cemetery or historic site with your family.
• Attending a local Memorial Day parade or ceremony.
• Making a bouquet of poppies, a symbol of remembrance for soldiers and their sacrifices.
Flamingo Fashion Show

BONUS! Can you also find the heart, baseball, envelope, and paper clip?

THE GREAT
ALEEYA
(by Julie M. Prince
Art by George Caltsoudas)

The hover-bus rose into the air, shuddered slightly, and flew away from the curb as soon as I sat down next to my best friend, Tera. I felt a tap on my shoulder and turned around.

My brother, Jared, peered over the seat behind us. “You almost missed the bus again, Aleeya. Can’t you ever be on time?”

Jared was always punctual—always early, in fact. I groaned at him and turned back to Tera. “Here’s why I was late,” I said.

She read the title of the book I held out. “The Great Rain of 2065.”

“Too bad you can’t go back in time again, Aleeya. Can’t you ever be on time?”

Jared was always punctual—always early, in fact. I groaned at him and turned back to Tera. “Here’s why I was late,” I said.

She read the title of the book I held out. “The Great Rain of 2065.”

“It’s for my history project,” I said. “It took forever to decide on a topic.”

My mind clicked into overdrive. “What if I can?”

In the remaining minutes of the bus ride, I explained my plan.

Tera looked confused. “Can what?”

My shoulders slumped. “I forgot about the visual aid.”

“Too bad you can’t go back in time and start your project when it was assigned,” Tera said.

My mind clicked into overdrive. “What if I can?”

I snapped my NeoGum and blew a metallic silver bubble.

Tera looked confused. “Can what?”

In the remaining minutes of the bus ride, I explained my plan.

Tera nodded but looked doubtful. “I guess it could work,” she said.

Air brakes hissed as the hover-bus lowered at my stop. I hurried to the front and waved to Tera over my shoulder. I dashed home as Jared lagged behind.

In my room, I dictated three notes to myself before I settled on one to print:

Dear Aleeya,

You know the history project that was assigned today? Start on it right away! There’s an interesting book all about The Great Rain in the school resource center. Go grab it.

Don’t miss the hover-bus after school!

From,

Your Future Self

PS: Make the visual aid something awesome, OK?

PPS: Next Tuesday, Zeke will offer to trade snacks with you at lunchtime. Tell him “No, thanks.” Dragon chips may sound cool, but they are seriously spicy.

My tongue burned at the memory of those chips.

After dinner, I slipped into the garage. It smelled of mildew and paint. I waved my hand to brush away cobwebs as I looked for Jared’s homemade time machine. It was right behind the antique model airplane I’d begged for but had never finished.

The time machine was a small metal box. The timer on the front blinked to life as soon as I touched it. When the top of the box slid open, a tinny voice sounded from it, echoing through the garage.

“Welcome to the Time Portal Deluxe. Awaiting your instructions.”

I looked toward the door to the house, which I’d left ajar. Satisfied no one had heard the computerized voice, I turned my attention back to the machine. But before I could drop my note inside the box, I noticed another note already inside the box.

(Continued on next page)
I was in the future right now! I ripped open the note.

To Future Aleeya. From Aleeya of two weeks ago.
I gasped. I was in the future right now! I ripped open the note. And then I read:

Thanks for your instructions about my history project. Unfortunately, I’m busy catching up on homework I should have done last week. You’ll have to stop wasting time on silly notes and get to work, or you’ll never finish the project before tomorrow!

I stared at the note. I blinked a few times and then noticed the handwritten signature at the bottom. It didn’t look like mine. A muffled laugh sounded from behind our hover-van.

“Jared!” I yelled. He stepped out, his shoulders shaking. “How did you know?”

“I heard you talking to Tera on the bus, then heard you in your room dictating the note. I put it together. How else could you try to alter time, if not with my fabulous, note-directed time portal?” He took the box and thumped it with his finger. “You know this time machine never really worked.”

“Awesome idea,” Jared said, handing over the Time Portal Deluxe. “At least it’ll be good for something.”

“Thanks! If I start my report right away, I might finish my assignment on time after all!”

After Jared left the room, I had another thought. I jotted a quick note for my brother to discover in the portal before we left for school the next morning.

Dear Future Jared,
Thanks for your help with my project. You know, your time portal just may work after all—I’m writing to you from yesterday! Strange, huh?
From,
Aleeya of the Past
I love dirt bikes because I can do tricks like jumps and wheelies.
Steve Pinto Jr.
Age 8
Pennsylvania

I have a Great Pyrenees dog and a husky dog. The husky is named Luca and has one floppy ear.
Ev Armbruster
Age 8 • Wyoming

I love languages. I am learning Hebrew. I really like it.
Sarah Claudino
Tennessee

When kids were misbehaving on the bus, my friends Scarlet, Lucy, and Kaylee started a project: “Stop the Fuss on the Bus!” Arianna and I helped them make posters to remind people. It’s going great!
Mollie Rabuse
Age 10 • Connecticut

Bird-watching is my favorite thing to do. I love birds! We have many in our backyard. Parrots are one of my favorites. I like how they are bright and colorful, and some mimic people!
Emilia Bybee
Age 10 • California

I love math. It is my favorite time in school. I even get to use the calculator sometimes.
Nico Mazzarelli
Age 7 • New York

I am a very good builder. In Minecraft, I built 10 bases! It is very fun. And I also like to draw.
Austin Robb
Age 11 • Texas

What I want to tell you is that sometimes I get angry, but I fix it.
Lily Ann Russell
Age 7 • Virginia

Stuff you love, things you tried, and what you wish other kids knew about you.
SEND US YOURS!
SEE PAGE 38
Amir, Beth, Caleb, and Destiny made the Mother’s Day cards above for their moms and grandmas. Use the clues to figure out which kid made each card.

**CLUES**
- Either Amir or Caleb made the yellow card.
- Beth did not use green lettering on her card.
- Amir did not make a red card or use red lettering.
- Amir did not use glitter.

Answers on page 38
How would we live, work, and play on the red planet?

Have you ever thought about the possibility of living on Mars? Have you wondered what your house might look like? What you might eat or wear? Whether you could play soccer? Dr. Ariel Ekblaw, a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, thinks about these questions every day. She's in charge of a group of people who are trying to figure out ways to make our lives work on Mars. The group includes engineers, scientists, architects, and artists.

If people are going to settle on Mars, Dr. Ekblaw says, we will need more than just the basics (food, water, and shelter). We'll need culture—music, art, sports, comfort food, and other things that make us happy. First, though, we'd need shelter and a way to survive on the surface. If we stepped out of a spaceship onto the red planet without a space suit, we'd die within seconds, says planetary scientist Dr. Pascal Lee. Almost no oxygen, temperatures far below freezing, and toxic dust are only three of the threats to life on Mars. But we can't just chop down trees or make concrete to build houses on Mars.

(Continued on page 16)
HI-SEAS researchers try out new space suits.

In orbit around Mars, TESSERAE’s magnetic pieces would find one another and snap together. They’d quickly assemble themselves into living spaces. On Mars, the same pieces could be mixed and matched to build more living spaces.

New Space Suits

A current space suit weighs about 300 pounds! Even in Mars’s weak gravity, it would weigh more than 100 pounds. “That’s too heavy!” says Dr. Pascal Lee of NASA. “You can’t do geology; you can’t even hike.”

Dr. Michaela Musilova of HI-SEAS agrees. “You can’t bend over to pick something up, and if you fell, it would be very difficult to pick yourself up!”

Both teams are developing lighter, more flexible space suits.

“Space suit is not just clothing,” Dr. Lee says. “It is a wearable spacecraft.” It holds in air pressure and blocks out deadly cold, radiation, and meteorites.

His group is working to put the heaviest equipment onto a robotic ATV that follows the explorer like a puppy.

Living on Mars—on Earth

In a few places on Earth that are rocky and remote like Mars, people are learning how to live on another planet. On Mauna Loa volcano in Hawai’i, six-member crews live in a two-story, dome-shaped habitat for missions that last as long as a year. Their work is part of the Hawai’i Space Exploration Analog and Simulation (HI-SEAS).

Crew members wear full space suits when they go outside. Inside, they sleep in tiny rooms. They eat the way they would in space and grow plants without soil in towers like those that may be used in space. They share weird toilets and take one shower a week to conserve water.

They also do research. One part of future martian life that the mission focuses on is the...

(Continued from page 14)

One option would be to bring everything with us. That would be really expensive—as much as $5,000 per pound! Another option would be to figure out how to use martian dirt to make houses.

Our Martian Homes

Dr. Ekblaw and her team are inventing one type of potential martian home called TESSERAE. Picture a giant soccer ball made of huge Magna-Tiles. You’d carry the tiles to Mars...

(Continued on next page)
mental health of the crew. The team studies challenges we’d face in space. One is being away from friends and family for long periods of time. Another is living in a small place with a group of strangers.

Dr. Michaela Musilova says that her team identifies the kinds of conflicts that happen often. Then they look for ways to avoid them, such as choosing a mix of crew members who are not likely to engage in such conflicts.

Crew members also do the kinds of research that would be done on the Moon and Mars. In their space suits, they study the nearby rocks, landscape, and living things. They work on new technologies for everything from getting around, to growing food, to developing new space suits.

Creating a Life on Mars
To keep astronauts healthy and happy, scientists will need to give them some comfort and fun during the seven-month trip to Mars, their time in orbit around the planet, and their missions on Mars.

Researchers will need to adapt ordinary things for use in space. These things might include musical instruments, furniture, sports, and ways to get around.

Some members of Dr. Ekblaw’s team developed musical instruments designed to work without gravity. Other team members are working on different high-performance clothes and shoes.

Robots could go first and build habitats for us.
And we’ll definitely need new ways to get food in space! Space food right now is mostly freeze-dried stuff or “just-add-water” prepackaged meals.

Scientists are working on ways to grow fresh vegetables and fruits with no soil and little water. They’re developing stoves that work in low gravity.

They’re also thinking about how soccer, swimming, and other sports may work. Without gravity, everything would be different.

In addition, “on Mars, there’s a very limited set of resources, and you’re in a very dangerous environment,” says Arizona State University theater professor Dr. Lance Gharavi. “It’s really critical that people find ways of working and living together effectively.”

He and his teammates in the Interplanetary Initiative group developed a game, called “Port of Mars,” to figure out how people can learn to work together while still meeting their own needs.

Dr. Ekblaw says this work will require creative thinkers, including kids. You don’t have to be interested in just science or math to participate in the future of space. “We need space doctors, space artists—people who make life in space worth living for all of us,” she says.

Within your lifetime, you may be able to go to space if you want to—so plan for it! Robots could go first and build habitats for us.

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Galaxy Jars

Turn everyday materials into an out-of-this-world creation!

1. Take the lid off the jar. Add enough paint to the inside of the jar to cover the bottom.
2. Layer 8-10 cotton balls on top of the paint.
3. On top of the cotton balls, add a different color of paint and some glitter.
4. Pour 1/4 cup of water into the jar. Squish the cotton balls with a spoon or spatula handle.
5. Repeat steps 1-4, using paint colors of your choice, until the jar is full.
6. Twist on the lid. Decorate the outside of the jar.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS! SEE PAGE 38

Jar with Lid
Cotton Balls
Paint
Glitter
Washi Tape
Pompons
Cardstock
Wiggle Eyes
Craft Foam
Glow-in-the-Dark Stars
Fuzzy Sticks
Wiggle Eyes
Washi Tape
Pompons
Cardstock
There's a little bit of G & G in us all. Let your Gallant shine!

Goofus doesn’t watch where he’s going.

Gallant pays attention to what’s around him.

“You probably just cost us the game,” says Goofus.

“Good try,” says Gallant.

I felt like Goofus when I erased my sister’s drawing.

I felt like Gallant when I swept the house.

I felt like Goofus when I ate all the free samples at the bakery.

Juliana
Age 9 • New Jersey

Evelyn
Age 7 • North Carolina

Cross
Age 9 • Philippines

SEND US YOUR MOMENTS! SEE PAGE 38

Art by Leslie Harrington
Alyssa Dean, age 12, of Wales, helps to reduce waste by recycling used bags from potato chips (or “crisps,” in the United Kingdom). She turns the bags into blankets for people who don’t have homes and need warmth. She also donates them to people in Ukraine who have lost homes and possessions in the war. And she offers workshops to teach others how to make the blankets. We asked her to tell us about it.

**How did you get started?**
I was inspired by a group of people in England who were making crisp-packet blankets for people who are homeless. I learned how and decided to do it too. People donate crisp packets to me, and my mum has a box at work where people can put empty packets for me to use.

**How do you make the blankets?**
I wash and open 44 packets. I overlap them and iron them together on low heat. Then I fuse them together by ironing clear plastic on top. From cleaning to fusing takes about 1½ hours. Each blanket is waterproof and very light to carry. And the shiny side reflects back a person’s body heat to help keep them warm.

**Then you give the blankets to shelters and organizations?**
Yes, along with socks, a hat, chocolate, and a toothbrush and toothpaste. To hold each set of items, my auntie makes a bag from old bedding.

I used my own pocket money from helping around the house at the start. Since then, I have also started raising money by doing raffles and charity events.

**Any thoughts to share with other kids?**
I would like to inspire other kids to recycle and care for our environment and to help others too. It is not a difficult task and you feel better for doing it.
All day long, Benny the betta fish darted through his castle. Sunlight danced across his shimmering scales. On the walls outside his tank hung crayon drawings from the kids in Room 203. “You’re the best pet ever!” kids had written on their drawings.

And then Harold arrived. Harold was soft. He chewed on cardboard and ate carrots. He could be lifted out of his glass-walled cage, ready for petting. Benny watched Harold. His scales itched with longing.

It was easy to like a hamster.

Soon, drawings papered the walls behind Harold’s cage. Kids shredded carrots just for him. Someone brought him a palace with winding tube tunnels. Someone else wrote a song for Handsome Harold.

No one had ever written a song for Benny. Not a lyric, not a story, not even an acrostic poem.

Before Harold came along, the kids in room 203 had liked Benny just fine. Benny tried to get closer to see why everyone loved Harold. He glared at Harold’s wiggling nose. Benny spat a food-pellet rainbow. The pellets sank to the bottom of the tank.

Kids always went over to check on Harold. No one checked on Benny.

Before Harold came along, the kids in room 203 had liked Benny just fine.

Once, when the lid was off his tank, Benny created a whirlpool of bubbles, sending water flooding out of the tank and Benny along with it. He thrashed across the floor, inching closer to Harold.

A pair of fingers lifted him tail first, plopped him into his tank, and snapped the lid shut.

Harold hadn’t noticed. He was busy eating lettuce.
For days, Benny swam along slowly, his fins dragging. He was lonely.

Then, one evening, his tank took flight. It wobbled across the room. He closed his eyes.

When he opened them, he found himself in a new spot under the windows. Right next to Harold.

Benny narrowed his eyes. He fluffed out his fins. He glared at Harold.

Harold pushed his quivering nose against his glass-walled cage. He scrambled up a tunnel and peered through the plastic.

“You are so colorful,” Harold squeaked.

That took Benny by surprise. He fluttered. He spun. He couldn’t help waving his beautiful fins.

“Thank you,” Benny said at last. “I can stay by the edge of the tank. That way, you can see my colors whenever you want.”

“That would be nice,” said Harold.

Benny did a double flip. Harold applauded. He slid down the tube and somersaulted. Benny nodded in approval.

“It was lonely here without anyone to talk to,” said Harold.

“It was lonely here without anyone to talk to,” said Harold.

“I was lonely too,” Benny admitted.

From then on, Benny didn’t really mind Harold.

At night, when the kids went home and the custodian’s vacuum fell silent, Harold snuffled in his cage next to Benny. It wasn’t so bad, having a friend.

And one day, the kids in room 203 made a new sign: 
Benny & Harold. Best Class Pets Ever.

Then Valencia flew in.
‘Ukulele Musician
Jake Shimabukuro talks about music, emotions, and tapping into your creative side.

1 HOW DID YOU BEGIN PLAYING?
I started playing ‘ukulele when I was four. My mom taught me a few chords. I would play all the time. Sometimes my parents had to take it away from me so I would do homework or eat dinner!

2 TELL US ABOUT A TIME WHEN MUSIC HELPED YOU. My parents divorced when I was in fifth grade. It was hard to deal with those emotions. Music was good for me because I could put my emotions into the music. You have to have a way to channel your emotions. But the most important thing is to have someone you can talk to.

3 WHAT DON’T MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT YOU?
Before I was a teenager, I was very, very shy. Even in high school, performing in front of crowds, I refused to have a microphone because I didn’t want to talk into it. I’d stay in the background while everybody was in front, singing.

4 WHAT DO YOU LOVE ABOUT MAKING MUSIC? Listening to music is great, but when you make music yourself, you tap into your creative side. As you play, you engage physically, mentally, and emotionally. Doing all three things centers you.

5 DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR KIDS?
I always tell my kids that, for me, the three big pillars in life are to be humble, grateful, and kind. And having a passion in life is so important. When you find something you love doing and want to become better at it, remember these three things: 1. Study. 2. Practice. 3. Make healthy choices.
Cities of the Future

For centuries, people have imagined new ways to live.

By Andrea Silen

This city looks pretty cool. But it isn’t a real place—at least, not yet. It’s a plan for a futuristic city.

For centuries, humans have been dreaming up designs for futuristic cities. No one has built the perfect one, but the planning helps people think of solutions to current problems and imagine new ways to live.

In the late 1400s, inventor and artist Leonardo da Vinci had ideas for a city that would help solve overcrowding issues. His plan showed different levels connected by stairways, along with wide roads and a complex system of canals. More recently, at the 1964 World’s Fair, designers displayed models of an undersea hotel and a city with moving sidewalks and road-building robots. Today’s futuristic cities aim to solve modern challenges. Designs might include super skyscrapers, delivery drones, and drought-resistant water systems. They would try to reduce pollution by using renewable energy. People have designed underground cities and cities that float on artificial islands in the sea.

When will you get to visit one of these cities? Some are under construction. Others will never be built. But just drawing the designs helps us think about new possibilities.

If you could design a city, what would it look like?
Egg Wedding
Eliza Bellinger
Age 7 • Pennsylvania

Snake
Rocks resting under his chin
Light reflecting on his skin
He slithers not walks
In a gap in the rocks
He’s alert as a hunter
Body huddled up together
See the sun in his eyes
Trying to hide as he spies
Hear him hiss as he talks
Peeking out of rocks
Feel his blood getting hotter
Scales as smooth as water

A Mom and Baby Otter
Addie Johnson
Age 8 • Wisconsin

Sakura trees
So stunning
The light pink blossoms
descend from the branch
Waves of red and pink
Into the palm of my hand

Goodnight Whispers
Oliver
Age 11 • California

Goodnight whispers drift through the air.
People sleeping everywhere.
Foxes curl up in their dens.
Chickens perch up in their pens.
The stars are out, the moon aglow,
Goodnight whispers, soft and low.

The Tooth
It was so hard and very stuck,
But good for me, I was in luck.
My mom was there to get it out.
“The tooth is gone!”—I gave a shout.

Ellington Williams
Age 7 • Virginia

Night at the Seaside
Rhett Phares
Age 9 • California

Waves crash and bash.
Water bubbles. And dash—
Seagull flies by.
Fish swimming, going swish.
Mountains rising over
Trees and patches of clover.
Sleepy town, down below.
Sun is setting, faded yellow.

3 Trees in the Woods
Lainey
Age 10 • Ohio

For My Little Brother
Julia
Age 10 • Missouri

Friends come and friends go,
but an elder sibling
is someone who
will never let you go.

A Mom and Baby Otter
Michaela Golden
Age 10 • New Hampshire

Me
Nora
Age 11 • New Mexico

Super Pig
Scarlett Simoni
Age 7 • New Jersey

Bruno is my hamster
Running on the wheel he loves
Under the bedding he goes
Noisy at night he is
Out of the cage he escapes!

Night at the Seaside
Rhett Phares
Age 9 • California

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The stars are out, the moon aglow,
Goodnight whispers, soft and low.

The Tooth
It was so hard and very stuck,
But good for me, I was in luck.
My mom was there to get it out.
“The tooth is gone!”—I gave a shout.

Ellington Williams
Age 7 • Virginia

Night at the Seaside
Rhett Phares
Age 9 • California

Waves crash and bash.
Water bubbles. And dash—
Seagull flies by.
Fish swimming, going swish.
Mountains rising over
Trees and patches of clover.
Sleepy town, down below.
Sun is setting, faded yellow.
How do scientists know if it’ll be a hot or cold day?

Andrea
Age 10 • Massachusetts

Predicting something in the future seems as if it would require supernatural powers—which doesn’t sound very science-y! But there’s no magic here. Instead, scientists who study weather use special tools to help make their predictions.

Weather science is called meteorology (MEE-tee-uh-RAHL-uh-jee). That may sound as if it’s about studying meteors, but it’s not. The name comes from an ancient Greek word and means “the study of things that are up high.” And, to study those high-up things, meteorologists put tools up there to help.

One tool is a mini weather station they attach to a weather balloon and launch into the part of the atmosphere above ours. There, the weather station takes readings on things like air pressure and temperature. What’s happening way up there can affect what happens in our part of the atmosphere.

Weather stations are also on the ground throughout the world. They give accurate, real-time readings, which help meteorologists see how weather is changing from moment to moment.

Satellites, both far above our atmosphere and within it, are other tools that gather data for weather scientists. And radar shows precipitation and where it’s moving, as well as wind speed and direction.

Information from these many sources gets fed into supercomputers, which calculate what is most likely to happen next (based on what has happened under those conditions before).

Meteorologists combine all of this with their own knowledge, experience, and expertise to let you know what kind of weather is likely on the way. Since a change in any factor can change the outcome, weather predictions are most accurate for upcoming hours and days, rather than weeks. That’s why meteorologists update their forecasts often—and can’t tell you today whether it will rain when you’re at camp in July!
Banana Pops

Make and share these tasty frozen treats!

1. Cut a banana into chunks. Insert an ice-pop stick into each chunk.
2. Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Set the pops onto it. Freeze them for at least 2 hours.
3. Pour yogurt, melted chocolate, or nut butter into a bowl.
4. Remove the pops from the freezer. Dip them into the coating, then roll them in a topping of your choice.
5. Set the pops onto a lined baking sheet. Freeze for an hour. Enjoy!

Ask an adult for help with anything hot or sharp.

If nut butter is too thick for dipping, microwave it for 30 seconds.

SEND US YOUR PHOTOS! SEE PAGE 38
Dear Searching,

Your mother reminds me of mine! Last year, my mom said that all she wanted for Mother’s Day was to be together. So we packed a picnic that included a few treats from my mom’s favorite bakery, and off we went for a day at the beach.

After we scolded the seagulls for trying to snatch our food, my little sister and brother got to work digging in the sand.

“Hey, you stole my shovel!” Indi yelled.

“I didn’t steal it,” said Tex. “It doesn’t belong to you!”

“Yes, it does!” said Indi. “It came with the green seashell pail that Gran and Poppy gave me for my birthday.”

“Well, I need it to build my castle!” said Indi.

“Well, I need it to build my castle!” said Tex.

“I bet that if we put our heads together, we can come up with other things we can dig and scoop with.”

“Hmm,” said Indi. “I guess these picnic cups could work.”

“Brilliant!” said my dad.

“We found a few more unusual tools and built the biggest, coolest castle creation ever. Once the sand part was done, we decorated it with shells, stones, sea glass, and teeny-tiny sand dollars. “Now that’s what I call teamwork,” said my dad.

“Wow!” I said, adding a shell to the tippy top of the tallest turret. “We did kind of an amazing job!”

“I love you all so much,” said my mom. “If only there were a way to freeze these moments and make today last forever.”

My dad held up his phone. “Let’s take a photo. Everyone say cheese!”

“I love you all so much,” said my mom. “If only there were a way to freeze these moments and make today last forever.”

“My mom says that all she wants for Mother’s Day is to be with family, but my brothers and I want to do something special for her. Any suggestions?”

—Searching Son in Salt Lake City

“And this empty potato-salad container could make a pretty good scooper,” said Tex. “Great idea!” said my mom.

“We found a few more unusual tools and built the biggest, coolest castle creation ever. Once the sand part was done, we decorated it with shells, stones, sea glass, and teeny-tiny sand dollars. “Now that’s what I call teamwork,” said my dad.

“Wow!” I said, adding a shell to the tippy top of the tallest turret. “We did kind of an amazing job!”

“I love you all so much,” said my mom. “If only there were a way to freeze these moments and make today last forever.”

My dad held up his phone. “Let’s take a photo. Everyone say cheese!”

“A time capsule!” I blurted out.

“You’d better take another picture,” said Tex. “Arizona accidentally said the wrong words.”

“Yes, Arizona,” said Indi. “The right word to say is cheese, because it makes you smile when you say it.”

“Cheese,” I said as my dad snapped another photo. “But listen. I just thought of the perfect way to freeze this moment for Mom! What if we gather some treasures from today, put them in a container with the photo Dad just took, then bury the container somewhere?”

“That’s a really good idea,” said Tex. “Except if it’s buried, the only people who will be able to see it are ants.”

“Um, ants are not actually people,” said Indi.

“Nobody will see it until we dig it up on Mother’s Day five or ten years from now,” I said. “Then, when Mom finally opens it, she’ll remember this day, frozen in time, just like she wished!”

Everyone agreed it would be fun to try. We took a bunch more photos, then carefully put some of the shells, stones, sea glass, and teeny-tiny sand dollars into a baggie. We even included one of the cups we (Continued on next page)
had used as a shovel and the label from the bakery box.

When we got home, we printed out the funniest photo, and we each wrote about our favorite part of the day. We put the treasures, the photo, and the notes inside a stainless steel water bottle and put the lid on tight. We dug a hole under the apple tree in our backyard.

“When Mom finally opens it, she’ll remember this day.”

“OK,” said my dad. “Are we ready to cover our time capsule with dirt?”

“Wait!” Indi said, running inside the house. When she came out, she was carrying a handful of ice cubes, which she threw right on top of the time capsule.

“Indi!” My mom laughed. “Why in the world did you do that?”

“Well,” Indi explained, “you said you wished you could freeze these wonderful moments, so I figured a little bit of ice would help!”

My mom chuckled. “When you put it like that, it makes a lot of sense!”

So, dear Searching, the time-capsule idea turned out to be a really fun present for our whole family. If you’re still looking for a Mother’s Day gift, I highly recommend giving it a try. Just one thing, though: you can probably skip the ice part!

Ciao for now,
Arizona

“Are we ready to cover our time capsule with dirt?”
Why don’t people usually carry meals in their pockets?

START! Take your brain on a hike.

WHAT AROUND YOU IS MOVING RIGHT NOW?

What’s a difference between complaining and explaining?

What do you think makes someone a movie star?

If you could SNAP YOUR FINGERS and instantly be GREAT at one thing, what would you choose?

What do you forget about unless you look at it?

BRAINPLAY

What skills would be useful for an obstacle course?

When has an animal made you laugh?

HIGHLIGHTS FOR CHILDREN MAGAZINE

ISSUE: MAY 2023

PAGE: 37
What’s on your mind? We’d love to know how you’re doing. You can write to us at [e-mail].

With a parent’s OK, find tips, ideas, and things to do on HighlightsKids.com and on our YouTube channels.

Keep talking with loved ones and taking good care of yourself!

Share Your Work

You might see it in a future issue! If sending your work by postal mail, please include your name, age, and address.

OR…

Go to the Share section of HighlightsKids.com to upload your work or to send Wacky Captions or Advice from You.

We’re Here for You

What’s on your mind? We’d love to know how you’re doing.

You can write to us at Letters@Highlights.com. With a parent’s OK, find tips, ideas, and things to do on HighlightsKids.com and on our YouTube channels. Keep talking with loved ones and taking good care of yourself!

Answers

INSIDE FRONT COVER

Short Circuit

PAGE 4
World Laughter Day
With TEN TICKLES.

PAGE 13
Mother’s Day Mix-up
1. Beth. 2. Caleb.
Funny But True

In class, I sit next to Joseph. One day, I told him how many minutes were left until recess. He pretended to think seconds were minutes, minutes were hours, hours were days, etc. So now I always say “seconds” to mean “minutes” to Joseph.

Cora
Age 9 • California

When my mom and I were both sick, my mom’s fish had babies. From her bedroom, I heard my mom say “I have baby fish!” I was like “What?!”

Ansley
Age 10 • Texas

One day, me and my dogs, Bruno and Basil, were playing tug-of-war. Basil and I went one way, and Bruno tricked me by pretending to go the way I went—then he turned around and took a shortcut. It was so funny!

Eddie B.
Age 9 • Washington

TEACHER: “Use this book wisely, Bobby. If you do, it will do half your work.”

BOBBY: “Great! I’ll take two.”

Elizabeth
Indiana

What isn’t a cantaloupe able to do?

Il can’t elope!

Eunice
California

What does an avocado use to communicate?
A guac-talkie.

Arcturus
Texas

What do you get from a pampered cow?
Spoiled milk.

Artemis
Oregon

Where do butterflies sleep?
On cater-pillows.

Eunice
California

A book never written:
I Love This Book by Paige Turner.
Alie Pelli
Wisconsin

TEACHER: “Use this book wisely, Bobby. If you do, it will do half your work.”

BOBBY: “Great! I’ll take two.”

Elizabeth
Indiana

What isn’t a cantaloupe able to do?

Il can’t elope!

Luc
Age 10 • Connecticut

Why are robots never afraid?
Nerves of steel.

Kyleigh
Colorado

What does an avocado use to communicate?
A guac-talkie.

Arcturus
Texas

What is this how humans bathe?
Charlotte
Age 9 • Colorado

OH MY GOSH! IT’S HARRY OTTER!
Liba
Age 11 • Michigan

OH NO! I LEFT MY LIMITED-EDITION CLAM AT BOB’S HOUSE!
Harper
Age 12 • Virginia

Sent us yours! See page 38
I want to know how to cook, especially cookies.

Riley
California

That sounds like a yummy goal! You might start by talking to a parent about it. Together you can figure out a plan for how to get started.

If a parent cooks and bakes, you may be able to help out and learn at home. If not, perhaps your school has a cooking club, or your community may have a youth cooking class that would help you develop skills. With a parent’s OK, you can also find how-to videos for kids online or at your local library.

You aren’t alone. Many people worry about weather emergencies and what to do about them.

One way to make you feel calmer is to prepare as a family now. With permission, visit https://www.ready.gov/kids/be-ready-kids. Together, you can find the best places in your home to go in the event of a local tornado warning. Then create and practice a “family safety plan.” Like a fire escape plan, this plan helps everyone know what to do in case of an emergency. Being prepared for whatever could occur can help you feel calmer and more confident, rather than anxious and unsure.

Anytime you feel afraid, remind yourself that you are prepared. Then try taking a few deep, slow breaths. Imagine a very relaxing place. Think of all the sights, sounds, and smells there. Anytime you’re upset, you can return to this place in your thoughts.

Share your fears with a parent or another trusted adult. They can comfort you and help you handle your feelings.

ADVICE FROM YOU

My dad yells at me when I play sports or make a mistake at home. Any tips?

Cates
(by e-mail)

Ask your dad to encourage you instead of yelling.

Sophie
Age 10 • Texas

It’s OK to make mistakes. Next time, tell him how you feel so you both can find ways to do better.

Mason
Age 7 • Hawai‘i

HAVE A QUESTION?

Write to us at Letters@Highlights.com or by postal mail (see page 38).
EDITORS’ PICKS
Here are some cool things we love this month.

1. TIE-DYE TO GO
We’re taking those good vibes with us! We love the convenience of this cheerful BEACH BAG with matching TOWEL and WATER BOTTLE.

2. OUT OF THIS WORLD
Decoding all the puzzles in SPACE CODE CRACKERS is a blast! We think the built-in cipher wheel really makes this book stellar.

3. FAMILY FUN
Our family game nights just got wackier with the card game THAT’S SILLY! With 750 cards and two ways to play, there’s no limit to the laughs!

Parents, find these products and more at Highlights.com
WHAT'S WRONG?

It's up to you!