

# Toosey Tails No. 6

## Well Hello There Alien

(Preparing to meet an alien)

*Have you ever wondered what goes on up there above us?*

*I wonder all the time, especially when I look up at night and see all those twinkling stars shining back down upon me.*



*When I was younger my favourite nursery rhyme was and still is:*

*'Twinkle, twinkle, little star*

*How I wonder what you are*

*Up above the world so high*

*Like a diamond in the sky*

*Twinkle, twinkle little star*

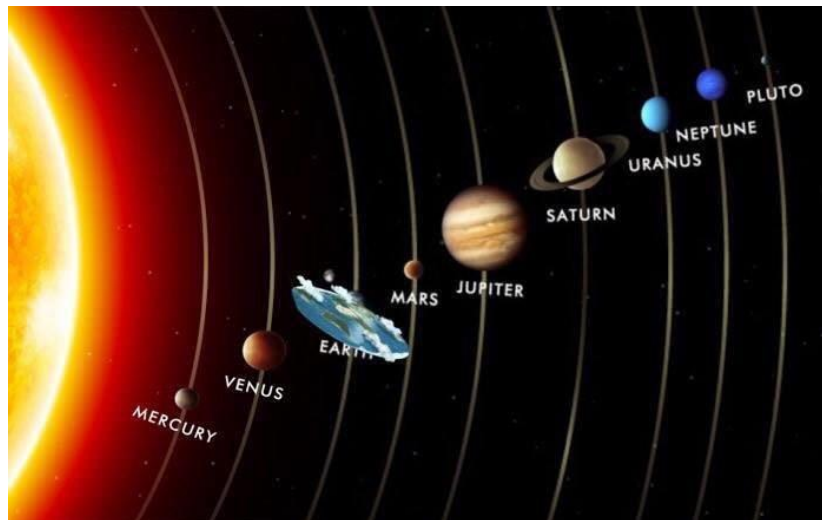
*How I wonder what you are'*

*This nursery rhyme gave me the fascination to learn more about those twinkling stars. Did you know our sun is a star?*

*There are lots of stars, some smaller and many larger, including some that are a hundred times larger than our sun. Can you imagine a star that big?*

*Teddy Bear tells me that our sun is a medium sized star but still is an incredible 864,400 miles across. You could fit about 1,300,000 planet Earths inside of it! That's a huge size to me!*

*We are not the only planet to need our sun for we travel around it with another eight planets. Together we are called The Solar System. Our planet Earth takes about 365 days, one whole year, to complete just the one orbit around our star, travelling at an incredible speed of 67,000 mph. Now that is fast!*



*Our Solar System with our very own star, the sun!*

*Sometimes I just stand outside and think 'Wow I am travelling at 67,000 miles per hour' but I do not feel I am speeding along and that is because everything is travelling with me at the same speed, including the atmosphere up there high in the sky.*

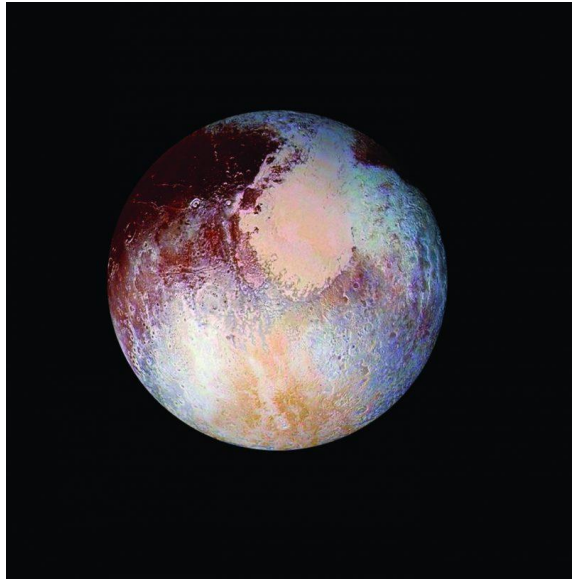
*Not only are we travelling around the sun at such a great speed but we are also spinning around as our planet completes a full spin on its axis every 23 hours and 56 minutes, so approximately a full whole day spinning incessantly.*

*Now I am feeling dizzy!*

*Can you see our planet Earth on the chart of our Solar System?*

*An interesting fact I learnt is that our planet Earth is nearly 93 million miles away from our sun and if you look at that tiny last spec on the chart, that is the dwarf planet Pluto, and this is an incredible 3.10 billion miles away from us. That is quite some distance!*

*I like Pluto for it looks pink in colour and I wonder if anything could live on this planet so far away from the sun. It must be freezing cold there all the time. Do you think anything can live on Pluto?*



*The dwarf planet Pluto*

*Pluto is known as a dwarf planet and is the furthest planet in our Solar System. It was named after the Roman god of the underworld and was first discovered in 1930.*

*If you looked at a weather chart for Pluto you would see it was freezing cold -172 to -238 degrees Celsius, so far too cold on the surface for any life form we know to survive but who knows what might live inside the planet!*

*Pluto has five known moons, that is four more moons than we have!*

*Did you know that our Solar System is part of a large galaxy called The Milky Way?*

*Sometimes on a clear night I can look up and see our galaxy. Of course, as our planet Earth is situated within the Milky Way, we can only see the part of it that is above us.*



*Our Galaxy The Milky Way*

Our galaxy is huge, really huge. To try and explain to you just how huge The Milky Way is, if we could together jump into Ebony's Gator and drive across the Milky Way, averaging 60 miles an hour, it would take us more than 2 TRILLION YEARS to get to the other side!

I don't think we will bother to try this, what do you think?

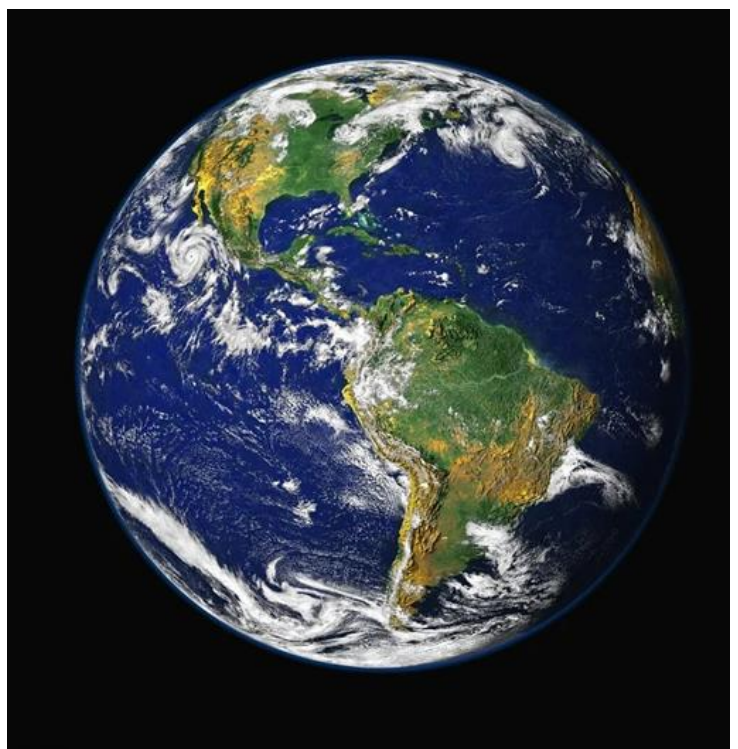
Teddy Bear tells me that astronomers believe the Milky Way contains about 200 billion stars with at least one planet per star, resulting in at least 200 billion planets with possibly up towards or even more than 500 billion planets. Wow, with the possibility of up to 500 billion more planets just within our Milky Way galaxy, surely there must be at least one more planet like our planet Earth. What do you think?

We live on the third planet from the sun and our very existence is down to this perfect distance, not too hot or not too cold. Over time this has helped to create the right conditions for life forms to start and flourish.

We have an atmosphere that contains oxygen which we need to breathe and the plants that live here help to sustain this supply, as well as providing the necessary food to nourish us.

Over a third of our planet is covered in water, essential for life, as we know it, to survive.

How lucky are we to live here!



This is planet Earth, our home.

Well today we are going to imagine one such planet that can support life, has just been found, situated not too far from us in the Milky Way!

And if that is not exciting enough, your chosen Toosey has been invited to travel onboard the very first super galactic spaceship, travelling faster than the speed of light, to visit this never been seen before planet and guess what...YES they want to take you with them!

So, are you ready, for let's get prepared to meet our very first alien!

*The main purpose of this exciting journey is to say hello to who or whatever is living on this planet and to introduce 'earthlings', which of course includes you and your Toosey, so now you need to create a TRAVEL PLAN for this incredibly important, once in a lifetime, trip.*

*For your travel plan you will need to consider the following:*

**1. What name would you like to give to this new planet?**

*Your name could be just a number, or you might like to call it after a special friend or family member or of course you could be even more creative and makeup your own new planet name.*

**2. Write down the benefits both you and your Toosey can bring to this important space mission**

*Some examples might be ways you could keep everyone entertained on the long journey to your new planet.*

*You might be very good in creating things, or perhaps have knowledge of electronics and building things, so you could help with vital repairs needed on the spaceship.*

*Perhaps you are good at making meals from few ingredients or can run fast and are very fit so can escape quickly if needed.*

*Are you good at writing or drawing for perhaps you could keep the daily journal about your mission?*

**3. What will you need to take with you on this long journey?**

*You will need to think about what you will wear for the long trip and what you will need for your stay should the aliens invite you to stay over.*

*What food and necessities will you need to take for both you and your Toosey?*

*Don't forget important things like a camera, torch, batteries, pencil & paper and I am sure you will think of other things too.*

#### 4. Will you take gifts to give to the aliens?

*There will not be so much free space on board your spaceship so think carefully about how many gifts and their significance. Write these on your plan, with the reasons you would like to take each gift with you.*

*Perhaps you would like to take something from your home that you love and hope the alien might love too.*

*Do you think it is important to include something made on planet Earth to show the aliens what we can produce? Maybe something you created, or made within your country, perhaps also something significant made elsewhere on planet Earth.*

*Should you take a flag and if so, which flags will you choose to take? Draw on your plan your flag or flags and write what you would do with your flag when you arrive on this new planet.*

#### 5. How can you let the aliens know you come in peace?

*Do you think you should try and make contact with the aliens before you land on their planet? How would you do this?*

*What about painting the outside of your spaceship with symbols and drawings, would that help them to see you come in peace?*

*If so, what would you paint on your spaceship? Include in your travel plan a drawing of your spaceship showing the symbols and objects you would paint on it.*

*When you disembark from your spaceship how do you think you could best communicate in person with the aliens?*

#### 6. What do you think the aliens will look like?

*Finally, what do you think the aliens might look like? Would they look like you or like your Toosey or might they be a completely different shape and float around like bubbles? Perhaps they live in under water cities or have homes high in the sky. Why not draw what you expect to see?*



*Gosh, this is so exciting and has given you a lot to think about this week, so get writing for your Tooseys are looking forward to receiving their TRAVEL PLANS from you!*

*Love Milly Moo*



*Let Love be our kindness to everyone while we learn, play & grow together!*