

(LEGO KIDS' NEWSLETTER)

'Exploriens' to the rescue!

It was 3200 AD. The space station Saturn 3 was on a secret mission, docked on the darkest side of Planet Ika - home to the enemies of everyone on Earth.

"Lower the decoder lieutenant. I think we've found where the Ikas breed their giant Bio-beetles."

Sure enough, the decoder picked out dozens of stinging Bio-beetles crawling in the lifeless dust. The evil Ikas were using the super-beetles to wipe out thousands of people on Earth.

Suddenly, there were loud noises from the hologram control panel.

"This is London! London calling Saturn 3. We're being attacked by the Ikas..."

"Captain King here. Put all 'Exploriens' on full alert! We're heading home."

At the speed of light, the space station blasted off into dust-filled space.

"Crew! Prepare for battle. Set up the radio telescope. Let's see what we're up against."

It was do-or-die time. The Earth was helpless against the Astro-gas, Bio-beetles and other weapons used by the Ika aliens.

As the Earth drew nearer, a fierce battle could be seen through Saturn 3's optical telescope. Explorien Crusaders were blasting every Ika in sight. Explorien Quick Fire fighters were busy in support.

"Lieutenant, make the Space Scout vehicle ready for action! I'm going in there! The only way to win is to destroy the Ika leader."

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Will Captain King catch up with the evil Ika chief? And will he save the Earth from being over-run by Ika aliens?

Only YOU know the answers. Sign up with the Exploriens NOW and join the fight in the name of right!

So you want to know more about space?

One of the best places to go to find out about space is Jodrell Bank near Holmes Chapel in

Cheshire.

This is the home of the world's first and biggest radio telescope when it was built in the 1950s following the discovery of radio waves in space by Sir Bernard Lovell in 1947.

Radio telescopes enable us to see further into space than we can with optical telescopes which can only detect light. In other words, with an optical telescope, what you see is what you get!

With radio telescopes, there is no picture to be seen. Radio waves given off by distant stars and planets are 'reflected' into the giant round dishes of radio telescopes. As they come to Earth, the electrical signals received are analysed and used to create a picture of what these objects would look like.

Another way astronomers have of seeing into space is by launching telescopes which orbit high above the Earth such as the Hubble Space Telescope, named after the astronomer Edwin Hubble.

Hubble is in fact an optical telescope and It is now more than repaying the £X billion spent on it in the past six years! Pictures of over 1,500 galaxies - some 12 billion light years away - are now being sent back to Earth.

If there IS life out there somewhere in the Universe, the journeys would take years in the spacecraft we have today. If, on the other hand, someone finds a way to travel through time, 'Explorians' will be as real in the future as the space shuttle is today!

Did you know that...

- * Jodrell Bank has 143,000 visitors every year. 60,000 of these are children.
 - * 180 people work at Jodrell Bank including astronomers, engineers, lecturers and support staff.
(For details of opening times
telephone 01477 71339)
 - * The Earth is in the Milky Way galaxy
 - * You can see a total eclipse of the moon on September XX this year.
 - * September 21-28, 1996 is National Astronomy Week. It also marks the 150th Anniversary of the discovery of the planet Neptune.
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Tips for budding astronomers

- * Don't buy an expensive telescope to begin with. Use good binoculars instead.
- * Never look at the Sun through binoculars or a telescope.
- * Start with observing a half-moon. Then move on to the stars!

* Find out from the local library where and when your nearest Astronomical Society meets - or contact The British National Space Centre on 0171-276 2377.

(Competition)

**Win a trip to Jodrell Bank
- and have lunch with an astronomer!**

That's right! You could win an all-expenses paid visit to Jodrell Bank Astronomy Centre in Cheshire. There's so much to see - AND you'll be having lunch with a real astronomer!

Sounds out of this world? It is - and winning is so easy!

Just write your answers to the following questions on a postcard (and send it to the address below):

1. What are the names of the planets in correct order as you move away from the Sun?
2. In which galaxy is the Earth?
3. What is the name for a planet's path around the Sun?

Post your entry (to reach us not later than April XX, 1996) to this address:

LEGO Jodrell Bank Competition
etc etc
