

The first car in space

Elementary

1 Warmer

These are the planets of our solar system. Put them in order from 1 (nearest the Sun) to 8 (furthest from the Sun).

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| 1. _____ | a. Jupiter |
| 2. _____ | b. Venus |
| 3. _____ | c. Mercury |
| 4. _____ | d. Earth |
| 5. _____ | e. Saturn |
| 6. _____ | f. Neptune |
| 7. _____ | g. Mars |
| 8. _____ | h. Uranus |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

solar panel vehicle spacesuit inventor orbit fuel

1. An _____ is someone who has an idea for a completely new product or machine. (para 2)
2. A _____ is a machine that you travel in or on, such as cars, buses and lorries. (para 3)
3. A _____ uses energy from the sun to make power. (para 3)
4. _____ is something such as oil, coal or gas that produces heat or power when we burn it. (para 3)
5. A _____ is a set of clothes that allows someone to move and breathe in space. (para 4)
6. An _____ is the path an object takes when it moves around a larger object in space. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. What did Elon Musk study?
2. Which company did he help to start?
3. What is Falcon Heavy?
4. What was it carrying?
5. How far will it travel in its orbit around the Sun?
6. Where do scientists think it is now?

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8 March, 2018

- 1 In the first week of February, 2018, a car went into space. It is still there and will probably go round and round in space for thousands of years.
- 2 The 'space car' was the idea of Elon Musk, a businessman, engineer and inventor who lives in the United States. Musk was born in Pretoria, South Africa and moved to North America when he was 17 years old to study physics in Canada and then in the USA.
- 3 In 2003, Musk was one of the people who started Tesla Inc., a company that makes electric vehicles. Tesla Inc. also makes solar panels, which are used to produce electricity. Musk wants to reduce global warming and to stop the burning of coal, oil and other fuels that produce greenhouse gases. These gases make the Earth warmer and cause climate change. He believes that people are damaging our planet and wants to start the first human colony on Mars.
- 4 On 6 February, Musk's company sent a rocket called Falcon Heavy into space from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. The rocket was carrying a red Tesla sports car and a 'driver' called Starman. Of course, Starman is not a real person but a plastic model wearing a spacesuit. The car will travel 400 million kilometres in an orbit around the Sun and will reach Mars. It is carrying a camera, which will send pictures back to Earth of its flight. It is also playing David Bowie's song 'Starman'.
- 5 Elon Musk is a very rich man. The cost of sending the red sports car into space was around 90 million dollars. No one is sure where Falcon Heavy is now but scientists believe it is somewhere between Mars and Jupiter.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings to the endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. The red Tesla sports car ... | a. ... to start the first human colony on Mars. |
| 2. Elon Musk was 17 years old when ... | b. ... to send the red sports car into space. |
| 3. Tesla Inc. makes electric vehicles and ... | c. ... will probably go round and round in space for thousands of years. |
| 4. Elon Musk wants ... | d. ... send pictures back to Earth of its flight. |
| 5. It cost around 90 million dollars ... | e. ... he moved to North America. |
| 6. Falcon Heavy will ... | f. ... solar panels that are used to make electricity. |

5 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. week February in of first the
2. he old 17 when was years
3. Earth the warmer make
4. a sports Tesla car red
5. Mars and somewhere Jupiter between
6. years for of thousands

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6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|---------------|------------|
| 1. global | a. change |
| 2. climate | b. gas |
| 3. greenhouse | c. vehicle |
| 4. electric | d. warming |

7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into two groups according to their word stress.

physics

climate

reduce

produce (verb)

human

between

A o o	B o o

8 Discussion

Would you like to live on Mars? Why? Why not?

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KEY

1 Warmer

Teacher's note: Pluto was originally considered to be the ninth planet from the Sun but has since been reclassified as a dwarf planet.

1. Mercury
2. Venus
3. Earth
4. Mars
5. Jupiter
6. Saturn
7. Uranus
8. Neptune

2 Key words

9. inventor
10. vehicle
11. solar panel
12. fuel
13. spacesuit
14. orbit

3 Find the information

15. physics
16. Tesla Inc.
17. a rocket
18. a red Tesla sports car and a 'driver' called Starman
19. 400 million kilometres
20. somewhere between Mars and Jupiter

4 Comprehension check

21. c
22. e
23. f
24. a
25. b
26. d

5 Chunks

27. in the first week of February
28. when he was 17 years old
29. make the Earth warmer
30. a red Tesla sports car
31. somewhere between Mars and Jupiter
32. for thousands of years

6 Two-word phrases

33. d
34. a
35. b
36. c

7 Word stress

A 0 0	B o 0
physics	reduce
climate	produce
human	between