

9-18 March **British
Science
Week
2018**



The theme for this year's British Science Week is **exploration and discovery**.

- think about everyday discoveries and how they affect your life by exploring science in the world all around you.
- consider how exploration and discovery can have a positive impact on the future.

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1. Antibiotics and Immunisations

A British scientist found a mould growing in one of his bacteria samples. He found that the mould had destroyed the bacteria. The mould was eventually turned into a medicine called penicillin. By the mid-1940s, penicillin was widely available and was used to treat soldiers during World War II. Since the discovery of penicillin, hundreds of antibiotics and immunisations have been developed and produced throughout the world.

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2. Jet Engines

On 17th Dec 1903, Wilbur and Orville Wright were the first people to invent, build and fly the world's first successful airplane.

Nearly 30 years later, a British engineer and pilot, patented his "turbojet engine". A German airplane designer on the opposite side of the war, was also developing a jet engine which he patented. The jet engine revolutionised air travel for both military and commercial uses.

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3. Personal Computers

Early computers were huge and ridiculously expensive. One of the first computers was built to perform World War II ballistics calculations for the United States military.

With the introduction of the transistor and the later development of the microprocessor, the personal computer became a reality. Companies like Microsoft and Apple, with their state-of-the-art software, helped make computers a fixture in offices and households across the world.

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4. Space Flight

In his 1961 speech, President John F. Kennedy famously stated, "I believe this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth. No single space project in the period will be more impressive to mankind or more important in the long-range exploration of space."

Eight years later in 1969, NASA's Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin helped the U.S. reach this goal, becoming the first humans to step foot on another world when they walked on the Moon.

In December 2017, President Donald Trump signed Space Policy Directive 1, aimed at returning humans to the Moon, Mars and beyond in the years ahead.

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5. Internet

The idea for the Internet stemmed from the 1960s realisation that there would be great value in allowing computers to share information. The original Internet was brought online in 1969. Years later, a British software consultant, created HTML, which introduced the World Wide Web in 1991. Today, the Internet is used by individuals, businesses and governments across the globe for communication, socialising, entertainment, trade and sharing information.

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6. For the future...

A discovery in space could lead to something that changes life on Earth. For example, if scientists can understand what happens outside of Earth's atmosphere in the stars and galaxies, they might be able to stop global warming. They might be able to harness a new form of energy. They might even find intelligent life!

The world isn't shrinking, but developments in communications and transport perhaps make it feel like it is. As we moved from the first telephones to the modern day smartphone, the ease and speed with which we communicate has increased amazingly. The internet allows unimaginably vast amounts of data to be stored and shared almost instantly. Technology in Formula One motor racing has produced cars that go quicker than ever before. Ever bigger aircrafts are being built. Can you imagine how technology and transport might develop in the future?