

The Alien Files

Complete the first two components, Pre-Reading Zone In and Pre-Reading Predicting, before reading the complete text. Then undertake the remaining components, from During Reading My Connection. Each component will open the relevant pages of text, if applicable, but you can go back to any part of the text at any time.

Tab 1 Pre-Reading Zone In

Chat with the students about the title and the illustration.

*Tab 2 Pre-Reading Predicting**Tab 3 During Reading My Connection**Tab 4 Visualising**Tab 5 Questioning**Tab 6 Summarising**Tab 7 Monitoring**Tab 8 Word Works**Tab 9 Assessment*

The first three questions are literal questions, so the correct statement can be found in the text. The next two are interpretative or inferential questions, meaning that students need to interpret or infer from the text to find the correct statement. The final question is an applied or evaluative question, so students need to apply or evaluate the information from the text to choose an answer, and there may be no “correct” answer.

Here are the answers for the assessment task.

Literal

1. d ET means extraterrestrial.
2. b The most commonly reported aliens have large domed heads and black eyes.
3. a In 1975, Travis Walton said he was abducted by aliens for five days.

Interpretative or inferential

1. b Jupiter is unlikely to have other life forms because it is a ball of gas with no solid surface.
2. c The discovery of a piece of rock from Mars showed the possibility that this planet may have other life forms on it.

Applied or evaluative

- b There are 80 billion galaxies in the universe, so scientists believe there must be other life forms out there.

As an additional assessment task, ask each student to read the following text out loud. Then mark any errors and work out the percentage of accuracy to see how well each student can read aloud.

This text is 116 words. To convert to a percentage of accuracy, divide the number of words pronounced correctly by 116 and multiply by 100.

There are more stars in the universe than there are grains of sand on the Earth! Our galaxy, the Milky Way, has billions of stars. With around 80 billion galaxies in the universe, many scientists believe that alien life forms must exist somewhere out there. The Sun is a star that is about 150 million kilometres away from us. The next closest star to Earth is 40 trillion kilometres away. If aliens are out there, they are a long way away from us.

If you could explore outer space, you would need a very fast spaceship. A trip to the nearest star would take about 70 000 years. That's a very long time away from home.