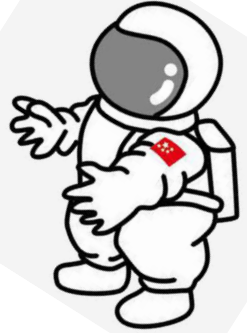




My MEP Projects: Y9

Y9 Project: Space and Sci-Fi

Name: _____



Whether or not you're a sci-fi fan, this project will take you to some very interesting places. You'll learn about the names of the planets in Chinese, the Chinese mission to Mars and a Chinese sci-fi blockbuster. There's an opportunity to write about the future in Chinese and to have a go at translating the titles of some sci-fi stories. Prepare to encounter Peppa Pig and Doctor Who in unusual contexts!

Go for it!

Task 1: The Solar System 太阳系 (tài yáng xì)

You probably already know the Chinese word for the sun: 太阳 (tài yáng). You will definitely know the word for 'star' 星 (xīng) because you write it every time you write the days of the week in Chinese! The word for 'planet' is 行星 (xíng xīng) 'travelling stars'.

Task 1a: Naming the planets

In English the planets are named after Greek and Roman Gods; in Chinese the names are a lot easier. Use your dictionary to correctly match the names of the planets in the table below. One has been done for you:

Planet Name		中文
Mercury		土星
Venus		金星
Earth		天王星
Mars		木星
Jupiter		水王星
Saturn		水星
Uranus		地球
Neptune		火星

In the box below, draw a simple diagram of the planets labelling them in Chinese (you'll probably find an easy one to copy in your science book)

1. What do you notice about the Chinese names of the first five planets (not including Earth)?
2. What do you notice about the Chinese names of Uranus and Neptune?

Those first five planet names are linked to the ancient understanding of the material world and still have important relevance in China from medicine to martial arts. Watch this five-minute explanation:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aQN_H1LmI34

Task 2: China's Space Programme



Task 2.1

Russia was the first to send a man into space (1961) and the first to send a woman into space (1963). The US was the first to get a man on the moon (1969). Although the Chinese space programme got off to a slower start (its first astronaut went into space in 2003) it is catching up very fast. Use the library or the internet to research the answers to the following questions:

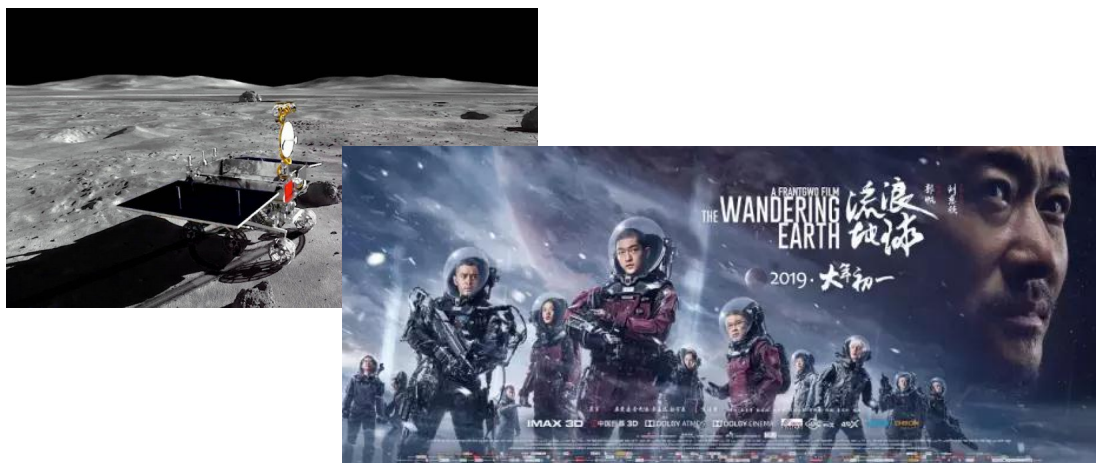
1. In what year did China successfully launch its first satellite?
2. China's first series of rockets were called the Long March series. What are the Chinese characters for this name and what is the significance of the name?
3. China's first space station orbited the earth from 2011 to 2018. It was called Tiangong. What are the Chinese characters for this name and what does it mean in English?
4. The spacecraft that docked with the Tian Gong space station were all named Shenzhou. What are the Chinese characters for this name and what does it mean in English?
5. Yang Liwei was the first person sent into space in the Chinese Space programme. What are the characters for his name and what do the characters for Li and wei mean?
6. Liu Yang is the first woman sent into space in the Chinese Space programme. What are the characters for her name and what does her given name 'Yang' mean?
7. The English word 'taikonaut' is sometimes used for Chinese astronauts. Where does the word come from?

Task 2.2

Watch this three-minute news report about China's space programme. In the box below jot down one thing you found interesting in this report, any words you understood when the Chinese astronauts speak in Chinese and any written signs or Chinese characters in the background that you recognized.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AizWdmoeuf8>

Task 3: China's missions to the Moon



The most exciting recent developments in China's space programme have been its unmanned missions to the moon. In January 2019, the Chinese made the first ever landing on the far side of the moon (the side facing away from earth). In this article from TCB you'll hear about this fascinating expedition. You'll also find out about the sci-fi movie which cinema-goers in China flocked to see at around the same time as the real mission to the moon.

Click on the link below and tick each step on the table as you complete it

[The Moon and Its Profound Meaning to Chinese People](#)

Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
Listen to the audio again while reading the text	
Listen to it again while reading the text	
Hover your mouse over the words you don't know, the website will give you the translation	
Listen to it again while reading the text	
Click on the small green scholar's hat at the top left hand corner of the picture. This will take you to some matching and missing word exercises. Do these exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you in this article. Click on each character. This will take you to the Stroke Order and Writing Tool. Use this to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	
Listen to the audio one more time without reading the text. Enjoy how much better you understand it now!	

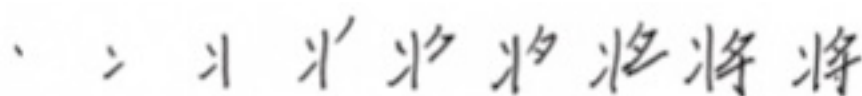
Task 4: Talking about the future: using 将

Any talk of space will involve talking about the future. In this section you'll practise how to do this in Chinese.

As you already know, Chinese doesn't use 'tenses' like we do in English to talk about events in the past or the future. The most common way of signalling a past or future event is to use an adverb of time, like 'yesterday', 'tomorrow' and so on.

One really useful adverb of time in Chinese is 将 jiāng. It is used to indicate that something will happen in the future.

Here's the stroke order:



Write the character 10 times in the boxes below:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

You have probably already learnt how to use the verb 会 huì to show that something will happen in the future. Using 将 is just a slightly more formal way of expressing the future. It can be used in speech and in writing. Like all adverbs of time, 将 goes before the verb. (Sometimes 将 and 会 are used together)

Task 4a: Practising 将

Example: The British Queen will visit China

英国女王将访问中国

yīng guó nǚ wáng jiāng fǎng wèn zhōng guó

Now translate this sentence into English:

英国女王将访问法国

And make up a similar sentence of your own using 将

Task 4b: Imagining the Future 将来

The term 'the future' in Chinese is 将来 jiāng lái. As a time phrase, it will go before the verb. Sci-Fi is all about the future, so now you can try writing some sci-fi style sentences.

Example: 我觉得机器人将来可以开车

I think that in the future robots will be able to drive cars.

Translate these sentences into English:

1. 我觉得人类将来能住在月球
2. 我觉得机器人将来可以帮[bāng 'to help']我们做作业

Two useful words for imagining the future:

机器人 jī qì rén 'robot'

人类 rén lèi 'humankind, the human race'

Now it's your turn. Write at least 3 sentences imagining things that will be different in the future. You can illustrate them with pictures if you wish.



Task 5: Science Fiction ‘Sci-Fi’

First, let’s look at the Chinese word for Sci-Fi. The full word in Chinese is

科学幻想

And, just like the English word, it is often shortened to

科幻

Look up 幻 huàn in the dictionary and write the English translation here:

Find 3 other Chinese words that include the character 幻, write the words here with pinyin and English meaning.



Task 5b Sci-Fi Stories

A collection of short Sci-Fi stories for young people has recently been published in China:

“给孩子的科幻”

The book is edited by two of China’s most famous Sci-Fi writers Liu Cixin (who wrote the book that was made into the movie *The Wandering Earth*) and Han Song. Some of the stories in the collection are translations from English stories by writers such as Arthur C. Clarke. Most are by Chinese authors. In the table below are the titles of five stories in the book. Use your dictionary to do the following tasks:

1. Identify the radicals of all the characters in each title
2. Look up the words you don’t know
3. Suggest a good English translation of each title

One has been done for you as an example:

Story title	Radicals of the characters in the title	English translation
宇宙之春	宀 宀 丿 日	<i>Cosmic Spring</i>
水星播种		
熊发现了火		
雪山魔笛		

异域		
----	--	--

Task 6: The Tardis lands in China!

The BBC programme Dr Who is enjoyed all around the world. Recently, a huge advertising campaign for the series was launched in China. In this article from The Chairman's Bao, you'll find out about the wonderful graphics commissioned from the artist Ruan Feife 阮菲菲 for this campaign.

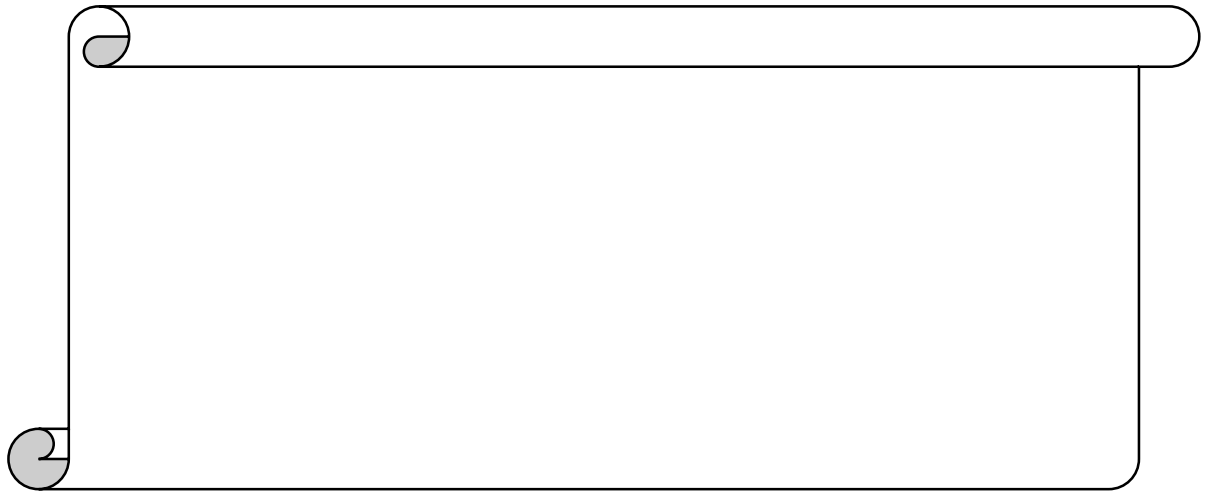
Click on the link below and tick each step on the table as you complete it.

[Chinese Style Doctor Who Posters Gain Online Attention](#)



Tasks	✓
Listen to the audio without looking at the text. Jot down in pinyin any words you recognize in the scroll below.	
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Click on the small green scholar's hat at the top left hand corner of the picture. This will take you to some matching and missing word exercises. Do these exercises.	
Choose five Chinese characters that are new to you in this article. Click on each character. This will take you to the Stroke Order and Writing Tool. Use this to check and practice stroke order for those characters.	

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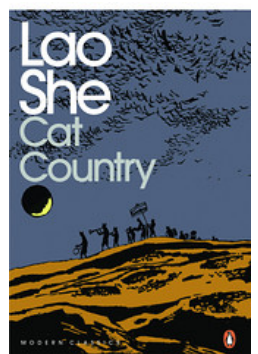
Task 7: Cat Country: Early Sci-Fi from China

Two stories are considered to be the earliest Chinese sci-fi literature.

- *The Future of New China* written in 1902 by Liang Qichao. It imagined China sixty years later, in 1962, as a global power hosting a World Fair. In the story, lots of westerners are studying Chinese in the hope of improving their lives.
- *Colony of the Moon* written in 1905 by an anonymous author, known only by a pseudonym, Huangjiang Diaosou.

Task 4b: Lao She

The most famous early Chinese Sci-Fi book, however, is Cat Country written in 1932 by Lao She, one of the top Chinese writers of the early 20th century. Research the following about him and write the answers below:



1. The Chinese characters in Lao She's name:
2. The city in which he was born:
3. The year he was born and the year he died:



In the book, a taikonaut crash lands on Mars where he finds a country inhabited by cat people 猫人. He makes friends with one of them and learns their language, 'feline' 猫话. However as he delves further into their lives, he realises that their civilization is crumbling through corruption and a loss of values. The cats do not really care, they care only about getting hold of a drug called 'reverie leaves'. The book is a satire about China in the 1920s and 1930s which was going through major social upheavals and where opium addiction was a huge problem.

Task 6b: Some extracts from the novel

Here's your chance to try to understand a few passages from this famous book. You don't need to understand every word. Just try to work out the answers to the questions using the words you know.

The first passage is the narrator's description of the cat people:

猫人不穿衣服。腰很长很细，手脚都很短。手指脚指也都很短。脸很大。。。鼻子和嘴连到一块。。。似乎像猪的。

1. What do cat people wear?
2. How are their hands and feet described?
3. What other animal do their facial features remind the narrator of?

Now here's an extract about what the cat people thought about him:

我的飞机来到，猫人知道是来了外国人。他们只能想到我是火星上的人，想不到火星之外还有别的星球。

4. Where do the cat people think he comes from?
5. Why do they think that?

And here is a passage in which the narrator describes the cats' language:

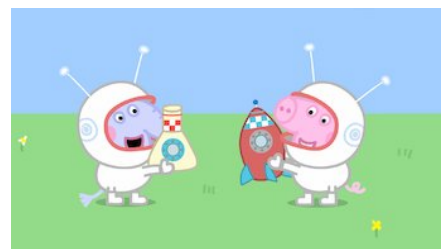
三四个月的工夫， 我学会了猫话。。。四五百字来回颠倒更可以讲说一切。 自然许多事与道理是不能就这么讲明白的， 猫人有办法：不讲

6. How long did it take him to learn their language?
7. How many words are necessary to speak Cat language?
8. The narrator says that with so few words, there are some things and ideas the cat people can't talk about. What is the cat people's solution to this?

Task 8: 小猪佩奇 goes to the moon!

Here is a fun way to consolidate some of the space vocabulary you've learnt in this project. Watch this five-minute episode of Peppa Pig in Mandarin. Listen out for when Edmund Elephant shows off his knowledge of the solar system by listing the planets.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhGf_aZfz5o



Now watch it again and do the following two tasks:

1. Count the number of times you hear the word 月球 yuè qiú. How many times was it said? Circle the correct answer below:

1-10

11-20

21-30

31-40

2. Jot down in pinyin ten words that you recognized in the dialogue. Write the English translation too.

1.	6.
2.	7.
3.	8.
4.	9.
5.	10.

3. Peppa Pig keeps complaining that things are 'mó nǐ' . Look up the Chinese characters for this word and write them below with the English translation

Task 9: Reviewing this project

Which tasks in this project did you find most interesting and why? Which tasks were the hardest? Which task did you not enjoy doing and why?

Complete the following three sentences IN CHINESE CHARACTERS. You'll find some useful vocabulary in the box below:

1. 我觉得最有意思的练习是 task number....

因为

2. 我觉得最难的练习是 task number...

因为

3. 我不喜欢 task number...

因为

task/exercise	练习	liàn xí
difficult	难	nán
interesting	有意思	yǒu yì si
boring	没意思	méi yì si



Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You now have lots of useful vocabulary about space and science fiction
- You've learnt lots about the Chinese space programme.
- You've practised writing about the future in Chinese.
- You've read some passages from a famous Chinese work of 20th century literature.
- And you've encountered a Mandarin-speaking Pepper Pig and the tardis in China!

*If your teacher signs you off,
you will collect 1 Badge!*