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These activities come with an exclusive A2 poster (also available online), a 'Through the keyhole' interactive resource, film scenes, Eckle profile and film trailer, all available at **www.scholastic.co.uk/childedplus**

Exploring Planet 51

Get ready for an alien invasion this autumn, with our exclusive activities and resources linked to the new animated film, Planet 51

Planet 51 is a great new animated feature film that is coming to a cinema near you this autumn. The movie is a clever twist on an alien invasion film that takes children to a world that looks rather like our own but is in fact inhabited by green-skinned beings! The 'alien invasion' arrives in the form of astronaut, Captain Chuck Baker, who crashes down onto Planet 51 during a family barbeque.

We've produced a range of resources to help you explore *Planet 51* in your classroom, while supporting learning outcomes in Literacy, PSHE and citizenship.



Literacy: Year 1 Unit 4 – Stories about fantasy worlds

Citizenship: Unit 5 Living in a diverse world – exploring sameness, difference and diversity.

What is Planet 51 like?

In this unit, Year 1 children are encouraged to explore a range of fantasy settings, such as outer space, to provide stimuli for the production of their own digital picture books. Begin by telling the children that you are going to explore a place called Planet 51. Encourage them to draw on their knowledge of outer space settings to share their ideas about what Planet 51 and its inhabitants might look like.

Introduce the children to the fantasy setting of Planet 51, using the gas station scene and street scene on the **online photocopiable** 'Planet 51' and the 'Through the keyhole' interactive resource (available at **www.scholastic.co.uk/childedplus**). Planet 51 is similar to Earth, so the children will have to become detectives to spot the contrasting features that make it a fantasy setting. What shapes can they see? How are the cars different? Start to build a word bank of vocabulary to describe the setting. Draw the children's attention to the brooding skies on the street scene, and ask them to predict what they think could happen if they went for a walk down that street.

Next, show the children the first part of the teaser trailer (00.05–00.24 seconds) available at **www.scholastic.co.uk/childedplus** and invite them to share any extra details they spot with a partner. Watch this part of the trailer again, pausing it on different frames, and encourage the children to describe Planet 51's inhabitants and their actions. In what ways are they similar to humans, and how are they different?



An astronaut invasion

Now watch the teaser trailer all the way through. Support the children in identifying the problem that occurs for the astronaut, Captain Chuck Baker. Why is he visiting Planet 51? What causes him to run away?

Children can be encouraged to re-enact Chuck's arrival on Planet 51. Ask them to freeze at the moment that Chuck notices the green-skinned inhabitants.

In the trailer, Chuck's face is covered by his helmet. In role as Chuck, can the children use their faces and body gestures to portray what Chuck is thinking at the moment he lands on Planet 51? Give them the chance to photograph or draw their partner's reactions.

Talk to the children about how they think the scenario presented in the trailer might be resolved. Plan a whole-class narrative called 'The day the astronaut visited Planet 51'.

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Year 2 Unit 1 – Stories with familiar setttings

PSHE: SEAL theme: Empathy – understanding the feelings and points of view of others and how people show their feelings in different ways.

Introducing Eckle

Although Planet 51 is a fantasy setting, it actually looks very much like our own world, and the alien characters' experiences mirror those of humans. The film can therefore be used to help children understand how characters are portrayed through movement and facial expression. The following activities use drama and role play to reinforce the children's knowledge of typical human dialogue.

Tell the children that you are going to introduce them to a young boy called Eckle (see image above), who lives in a place called Planet 51. Collect the children's initial ideas about what Eckle might be like.

Next, look at the pictures of Eckle on the **online photocopiable** 'Planet 51: Eckle' (available at **www.scholastic.co.uk/childedplus**), and encourage the children to describe his personality from his posture and his facial expressions. Do they think Eckle is like anybody they know? Would they like to be his friend? Read the character description and compare the children's ideas with those presented.

Watch the teaser trailer and allow the children to share their initial reactions, checking that they have understood the narrative. Replay the trailer and study the image of Eckle's family and their neighbour, Lem, who appears dumbstruck at the arrival of an astronaut at their barbeque (see **A2 poster**). Encourage the children to explain what the characters are thinking and feeling, giving reasons by referring to their facial expressions.

Family drama

Now ask the children to imagine that is it not Eckle's family in the picture but their own. What sort of thing would have to arrive in their back garden to make their family speechless? What would their family/neighbours think in this situation? Encourage the children to draw on this, and their knowledge of the kind of dialogue that children and adults use, to take on the role of one of the alien characters shown on the poster. Invite the children to act out a conversation that could happen between their family after the astronaut has run away. ■