

MAGIC TREE HOUSE: SPACE MISSION

Recommended for grades K-4

Program Overview

Travel with the brother-sister duo Jack and Annie in their Magic Tree House® as they proceed to answer the questions left for them in a mysterious note signed “-M.”

The show begins with narration by Mary Pope Osborne, author of the best-selling Magic Tree House® children’s book series. Viewers will find themselves perched high in the trees as Jack and Annie discover the note that asks them to answer a series of six questions about space.



Adventure with Jack and Annie as they wish themselves to an observatory where they meet up with an astronomer who helps them to answer the first few questions on the note. With the help of the astronomer, the Internet, an astronaut, books and the writer of the mysterious note, Jack and Annie are taken on a wondrous journey of adventure and learning. This exciting voyage will carry visitors to the planets and far out into the Universe where Jack and Annie nearly get... Well, we don’t want to give it away. The adventure is just beginning!

Standards Correlations

Science

- Earth Science* Describe objects such as the Sun, Moon and stars in the sky.
Recognize the physical attributes of stars in the night sky such as number.
Identify how technology is used to observe distant objects in the sky.
- Forces and Motion* Explain how some forces can make things move without touching them.
Demonstrate the effect of gravitational force on the motion of an object.
- Ecosystems* Recognize that plants and animals need air and water.

Information and Technology

- Sources of Information* Identify sources of information.
Classify sources of information as relevant for particular topics or purposes.
- Technology Tools* Use a variety of technology tools to gather data and information.
- Research Process* Recognize steps of a simple research process.
- Informational Text* Summarize appropriate reading strategies when reading for information.

English/Language Arts

- Reading Informational* Use various text features to locate key facts in a text.
Know and use text features to locate key facts or info in a text efficiently.
Explain how specific images contribute to and clarify a text.
- Speaking and Listening* Ask and answer questions about key details in a text read aloud or information presented orally or through other media.

Vocabulary

astronomer

space probes

observatory

gas giants

telescope

Moon

star

lunar colony

universe

astronaut

Sun

weightless

gravity

spacewalking

planet

black hole

solar system

atmosphere

Suggested Pre- or Post-Visit Activities

1. Many space probes have been sent to explore the planets of our solar system. Several that are mentioned in the planetarium program are: **Magellan, Pathfinder, Pioneers 10 & 11, and Voyagers 1 & 2**. Have students research these space probes to learn more about which planets they were sent to explore and some of the discoveries they made.
2. A real-life astronaut featured prominently in “Magic Tree House: Space Mission” is **Kathryn Thornton**. Have students research her to find more information about her experiences as an astronaut.
3. Have students find out the differences between a **planetarium** and an **observatory**.
4. Near the end of the program, Jack and Annie are a little worried about something called “**spaghettification**.” Have students research the word and discover what it has to do with black holes.