

SCIENCE

Welcome to the Science Super Curriculum. Below you'll find a whole host of things to do to stretch yourself beyond the classroom curriculum.

Welcome to the edge of space!

Explore one of the most surprising scientific discoveries of recent years: living microbes found high in Earth's stratosphere, nearly 40 km above the surface. Scientists have discovered that some bacteria can survive freezing temperatures, intense ultraviolet radiation and extremely thin air while travelling around the planet on atmospheric "superhighways". These discoveries could help us understand how diseases spread, how life survives in extreme environments and even whether life might exist on Mars or other planets.

READ

Read the news article on these microbes:

Earth's stratosphere is a mysterious superhighway for microbes – Science News

WATCH

Watch these short videos introducing the stratosphere and scientists studying microbes in space:

Neil deGrasse Tyson Teaches You About the Layers of Our Atmosphere

2020 LIFT PROJECT – Stratospheric Microbes | Whiting High School

LISTEN

Listen to a BBC podcast discussing the importance of microbes and why humans are so keen to find them in space:

The Infinite Monkey Cage - Series 19 - Microbes: Secret Rulers of the World? - BBC Sounds

DO

- Write a piece of persuasive writing, answering: "The discovery of microbes in the stratosphere proves life could exist on Mars." Think about evidence from the article and include arguments for and against.

- Research one of the following careers: Microbiologist, Astrobiologist, Atmospheric Scientist, Space Scientist. Create a profile including: key responsibilities, qualifications required, salary range, and why the role is important