

TEACHERS' NOTES

Aimed at primary school pupils, the ideas in this study guide are starting points for a cross-curricular project on the film *Muppets From Space* at Key Stages 1 and 2. Many curriculum areas are covered although the focus is on English and Literacy. The activities in this study guide seek to complement and extend the pleasure the children will have derived from a visit to the cinema whilst at the same time meeting some of the requirements of the National Curriculum and Scottish Guidelines. The tables provided below can be used for planning and record keeping. Subject focus areas are also outlined on each page. A special template may be found on page 12 of this study guide for children to write on.

If you have any children's work you would like to send in based on the film *Muppets From Space* we would be very grateful and will even send you a little thank you! Our address is shown on the back of this study guide.

SYNOPSIS

Daredevil Gonzo steps into his first starring role in *Muppets From Space*, an extraterrestrial adventure about the search for Gonzo's past. On a quest with buddy Rizzo to find his real family, Gonzo discovers that his long-lost relatives are actually aliens from a distant planet. After announcing to the world on Miss Piggy's talk show "Jifomunia" that he is living proof that "we are not alone in the universe," Gonzo becomes the target of paranoid government operative K. Edgar Singer. In the end Gonzo must not only escape the Singer compound, but decide to either board the mother ship and join the family that he has always wanted, or stay on Earth with the friends that he has always known and loved.

UK Release Date: 26th December 1999 Running Time: 82 minutes Certificate: U

E-mail: muppetsfromspace@filmeducation.org

Film Education website: www.filmeducation.org

Muppets From Space website: www.muppetsfromspace.com

NATIONAL CURRICULUM GUIDELINES

Meet the Muppets	English	KS1/2	A12	
	Literacy	KS2 Y3, T2 Y4, T2	A13 Sentence 2, 3 Sentence 1	3b
Tell the Story	English	KS1/2	A13	1, 2b
	Literacy	Y2, T1 Y3, T2 Y4, T1	Text 4 Text 7 Text 4	
	I.T.	KS1/2		2a
Making the Muppets	English	KS1/2	A13	1
	Literacy	Y1, T2 Y2, T2 Y3, T2 Y4, T1 Y5, T1	Text 8, 15 Text 6, 14 Text 8 Text 1, 11 Text 15	
	Art	KS1/2	A11	8a, b
Muppets in Other Genre	English	KS2	A12	2b, 3
	Literacy	KS2 Y2, T2 Y3, T1 Y4, T1 Y5, T1 Y5, T2 Y6, T2	A13 Text 5 Text 4, 14 Text 13 Text 18 Text 9 Text 10, 12	1, 2
Muppet Messages	English	KS2	A12	2a
Muppet Maths	Maths	KS2	A13	13+
	Numeracy	Y5	Time	
Making Muppet Gadgets	English	KS1/2	A13	
	Literacy	Y1-6	Writing composition	

SCOTTISH GUIDELINES

Meet the Muppets	English Language	Writing Reading	Knowledge about language Reading for information	LD+ LC+
Tell the Story	English Language	Writing	Functional Imaginative	LB+
	I.T.	Techniques for using computer software		LB+
Making the Muppets	English Language	Writing	Imaginative	LA+
	Art	Creating and designing		LA+
Muppets in Other Genre	English Language	Reading Writing	Awareness of genre Imaginative	LB+ LB+
Muppet Messages	English Language	Reading Writing	Knowledge about language Knowledge about language	LC+ LC+
Muppet Maths	Mathematics	Number, Money and Measurement	Time	LB+
Making Muppet Gadgets	English Language	Writing	Imaginative	LB+

MEET THE MUPPETS

The film *Muppets From Space* will be shown at cinemas nationwide from Christmas 1999. You may have seen the Muppets before on the big screen or on television. For those of you who have not had the pleasure of meeting them before, these pages will act as an introduction. Soon they will seem like old friends...

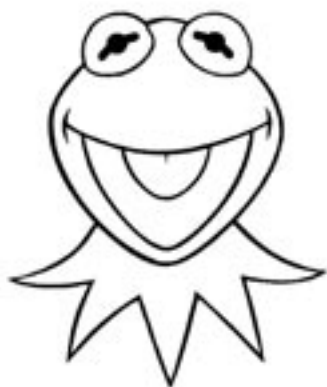
TASK

Read through the descriptions and colour in the pictures of each Muppet.



GONZO

Gonzo wants to be a **great** artist and he performs **dangerous** daredevil stunts such as balancing a piano on his nose. Gonzo was 'discovered' by Kermit the Frog who gave Gonzo his **big** break on *The Muppet Show*. Gonzo seems to be alone in the world with no family to speak of. In the movie *Muppets From Space*, Gonzo finally realises who he is and where he comes from - outer space.



KERMIT

Kermit The Frog came to show business from the swamp. He is the **calm** centre around whom all Muppet chaos takes place. As the leader of the Muppets, he attempts to keep things going in the right direction, even when no one can agree which direction that might be. In short, Kermit is **sensitive, thoughtful, decent** and all those other things we'd like to be. But his most endearing quality is his ability to endure the peculiar behaviour of his friends and to encourage them to reach for the stars.



MISS PIGGY

Miss Piggy is the ultimate woman, the world's most **famous** superstar, and, when need be, one very **tough** pig. She can sing, dance, act, pose and give advice. Plus, she has a powerful left hook. Miss Piggy loves show business, glamour, chocolate, being recognised and of course, herself. Above all else, Miss Piggy loves her **dearest** Kermit.

RIZZO THE RAT

Rizzo is Gonzo's **small, wise-cracking** rodent friend who never stops eating! Originally from the sewers of New York,

Rizzo worked backstage on *The Muppet Show* before appearing in sketches and musical numbers.



FOZZIE BEAR

Fozzie wants to be the greatest stand-up bear comedian in the world. His **corny** jokes might not be **funny**, but he is so incredibly **lovable** audiences can't help but smile.



ANIMAL

Animal is the drummer for the Muppets' band. He is completely **wild** and **noisy**. Animal loves to play the drums, eat food and then play the drums some more.

He's a man of few words, but he usually gets his message across **loud** and **clear** (well, loud anyway).



To find out more about the Muppets visit the Muppets website www.muppets.com/profile

TASK

Look carefully for the **highlighted** words. These are called adjectives or describing words.

Can you think of other adjectives that mean the same thing? Write these down in the chart on page 3.

EXTENSION TASK

One adjective has not been highlighted. Can you find it and add it to the chart on page 3?

TELL THE STORY

An outline of the story told in the film *Muppets From Space* is shown below in picture form but in the wrong order.

TASK 1

Ask your teacher to read you the **synopsis** of the film *Muppets From Space* shown in the Teachers' Notes of this study guide. Ask them to explain what a **synopsis** is!

TASK 2

Cut out each of the pictures below and stick them on a separate piece of paper in the correct order so they tell the story. Underneath each picture write a description of what is happening. If you have a computer, try writing your descriptions on screen.



EXTENSION TASK

Try arranging the pictures in a different order so that they tell quite another story. Write descriptions to go with the pictures.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

ENGLISH	KS1/2	AT3	1, 2b
LITERACY	Y2, T1	Text	4
	Y3, T2	Text	7
	Y4, T1	Text	4
L.T.	KS1/2		2a

SCOTTISH GUIDELINES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Writing	Functional	LB+
	Writing	Imaginative	LB+
L.T.	Techniques for using computer software		LB+

MAKING THE MUPPETS



The Muppet puppets were made at the Muppet Workshop in New York. They are operated by hand by puppeteers standing below. This made filming the movie *Muppets From Space* rather difficult because the puppeteers needed room to work with on the ground. Floors had to be built four feet above the stage floor.

All of the props that the Muppets touch such as cups and toothbrushes had to be made at the Workshop and had to be very light so that the Muppets could carry them.

MAKE YOUR OWN MUPPET

TASK

This is your chance to become a designer. Think of a *new* character who could be introduced to the Muppets. Your character will need to be some kind of animal or creature. Think about where they came from and what they are like. Have they a special talent that could be used on *The Muppet Show*? Are they a good musician, dancer or fire-eater? Use the Character Profile Sheet on page 6 to create your *new* character.

MAKING THE MUPPETS

CHARACTER PROFILE SHEET

NAME

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APPEARANCE

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TALENT

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PERSONALITY

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LIFE HISTORY

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NATIONAL CURRICULUM

ENGLISH	KS1/2	AT3	1
LITERACY	Y1, T2	Text	8, 15
	Y2, T2	Text	6, 14
	Y3, T2	Text	8
	Y4, T1	Text	1, 11
	Y5, T1	Text	15
ART	KS1/2	AT1	8a, b

SCOTTISH GUIDELINES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Writing	Imaginative	LA-
ART	Creating and Designing		LA-

THE SPACE GENRE



Muppets From Space can be classified as a film in the space genre. (Genre means the 'type' of story.) Westerns and police stories are other types of genre. Each type of film will have certain ingredients such as the plot (or story), the characters, the setting (where the story takes place) and the events taking place.

TASK







Imagine that you are a film maker. Your task is to think of new Muppet movies using different types of genre. Use the chart on page 8 to map out your ideas.

EXTENSION TASK

Once you have completed the chart, try extending one of your ideas into a story. You could even start to write the beginning of your story in script form just as they would do in the film industry.

MUPPETS IN OTHER GENRES



Types of film	Types of settings (Where?)	Types of characters (Who?)	Types of events (What happens?)
Western 			
Police story 			
Spy story 			
Medical drama 			
Ghost story 			
Myth/legend 			

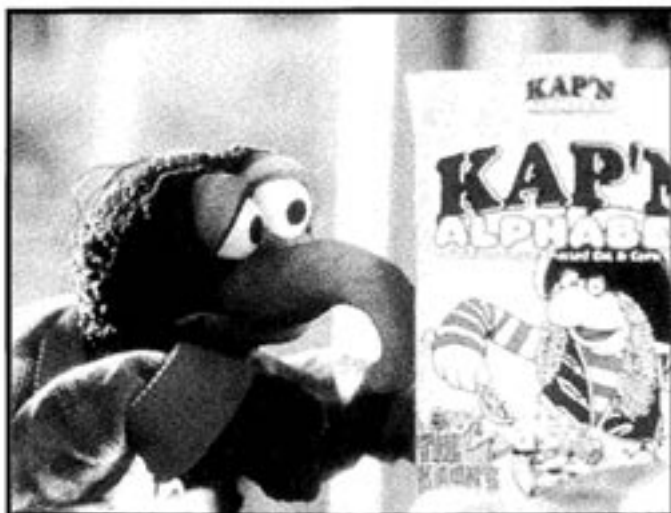
NATIONAL CURRICULUM

ENGLISH	KS2	A12	2b, 3
	KS2	A13	1, 2
LITERACY	Y2, 12	Text	5
	Y3, 11	Text	4, 14
	Y4, 11	Text	13
	Y5, 11	Text	18
	Y5, 12	Text	9
	Y6, 12	Text	10, 12

SCOTTISH GUIDELINES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Reading	Awareness of genre	LB+
	Writing	Imaginative	LB+

MUPPET MESSAGES



In the movie *Muppets From Space*, when Gonzo empties his alphabet-shaped breakfast cereal into his bowl one morning, the letters magically move themselves into messages for him such as...

WATCH
THE SKY

TASK

Gonzo's breakfast cereal is showing more messages below but the letters are mixed up. These are called **anagrams**. Can you find out what the letters are saying?

FOR EXAMPLE

An anagram of RIZZO THE RAT is HOTTER AIR ZZR!

An anagram of GONZO IS AN ALIEN is ONIONS GAZE NAILS!

TEMPER FUSS CAP MOP

EIGHT FORK TERM

GYM PIG SIS

EXTENSION TASK

Make up your own anagram messages for others to work out.
Look at <http://www.kagi.com/akt/anagrams.html>

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

ENGLISH KS2 AT2 2a

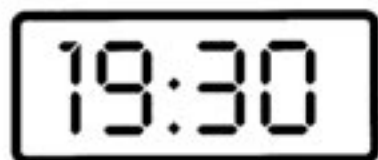
SCOTTISH GUIDELINES

ENGLISH LANGUAGE Reading Knowledge about language LC+
Writing Knowledge about language LC+

MUPPET MATHS - TIME



At the beginning of the film *Muppets From Space*, we see the Muppets being woken up at half past seven in the morning by their alarms. Each clock shows the same time in different ways as shown below.



TASK

Can you tell the time from the different alarm clocks shown below?



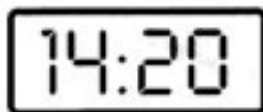
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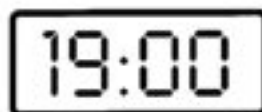
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NATIONAL CURRICULUM
MATHEMATICS
NUMERACY
SCOTTISH GUIDELINES
MATHEMATICS

KS2 A13 L3+
Y5 Time

Number, Money and Measurement Time L8+

MAKING MUPPET GADGETS

In the movie *Muppets From Space*, Dr Bunsen Honeydew makes the Muppets all kinds of wonderful inventions to help them in their quest to find Gonzo. Some of these are shown below:



When squeezed, this produces an invisibility spray.



When thrown against any surface, a door will appear.



When sprayed on a person, this will make them do whatever you command.



TASK

Imagine that you are Dr Bunsen Honeydew's new assistant. What new inventions would you make that would help the Muppets?

EXTENSION TASK

Imagine that you have been sprayed with the invisibility spray. Use the special writing page to write down the adventures that you would have.

NATIONAL CURRICULUM

ENGLISH LITERACY	KS1/2 Y1-6	AT3 Writing Composition
SCOTTISH GUIDELINES ENGLISH LANGUAGE	Writing	Imaginative LB+

