

What's Out There?



Jackie Faherty researches objects in space. She hopes her work inspires others to do the same.

LEXILE: 1070L

SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD: Earth's Place in the Universe

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.4, W.6-8.8

ENGAGE THE READER

Write the word *astrophysicist* on the board. Ask students to raise a hand if they think they could be an astrophysicist one day. Ask a few of them why or why not. Explain that an astrophysicist is someone who studies the behavior and properties of space objects. What might be difficult about that job? What might be interesting?

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- What drove Jackie Faherty's desire to become an astrophysicist? Where did her original hesitation come from?
- What were/are some of Faherty's career goals? How does her work help fight the ideas she had when she was younger?
- What is the Accident? Why is it important to scientists?

EXTEND LEARNING

Point out that Jackie Faherty shares her knowledge with the public. Why does she do this? (*To inspire others and to help them understand space discoveries.*) Show students an example at ti.me/FahertyVideo. After watching, ask students: What was the purpose of the video? Was it effective? Why or why not?

Tell students they'll be acting as science communicators, like Faherty. In groups, they'll choose a space object or event to learn about. Then they'll create a simplified explanation and a presentation about what they've learned. This can be a video, a demonstration, or a diagram. Have groups present their work to the class or even to a younger class. Close the lesson by returning to the questions from the beginning of the lesson. Do students think they could be an astrophysicist one day? What might be difficult about the job? What might be interesting?

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

1. C (RI.3) **2. D** (RI.4) **3. B** (RI.8) **4. D** (RI.3) **5. B** (RI.6)

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

6. A (RI.5) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.3)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story—"What's Out There?"—to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. What most inspired Jackie Faherty to become an astrophysicist?</p> <p>A. She accidentally discovered a brown dwarf.</p> <p>B. There were too many men in the profession.</p> <p>C. She saw a movie featuring a female scientist.</p> <p>D. She had an Earth science teacher who had a big influence on her.</p>	<p>4. How does Faherty teach others?</p> <p>A. She creates shows for the Hayden Planetarium.</p> <p>B. She leads courses for graduate school students.</p> <p>C. She gives public talks at the museum.</p> <p>D. all of these</p>
<p>2. According to the article, what is a brown dwarf?</p> <p>A. a planet that can be seen without a telescope</p> <p>B. a star that formed more than 13 billion years ago</p> <p>C. a well-known space phenomenon</p> <p>D. a space object that does not have enough energy to shine brightly</p>	<p>5. With which would Faherty most likely agree?</p> <p>A. You should stick with what you know.</p> <p>B. Anyone can be an astrophysicist.</p> <p>C. Space is really hard to understand.</p> <p>D. Men are better suited to science.</p>
<p>3. What does the quote "I can use that information to try to understand the 'ingredients' of planets" tell you about Faherty?</p> <p>A. She believes the Accident formed more than 13 billion years ago.</p> <p>B. She still has big questions about the universe.</p> <p>C. She likes to study objects that others don't know much about.</p> <p>D. She likes to educate others about space.</p>	<p>6. How is the third section important to the article as a whole?</p> <p>A. It describes Faherty's work as an educator, inspiring a new generation of scientists.</p> <p>B. It encourages people to get involved with space, as Faherty has.</p> <p>C. It advises readers to take an interest in subjects other than space.</p> <p>D. It explains how Faherty will continue to learn about astrophysics.</p>

7. Faherty was inspired by a female scientist in a movie. Describe a character you relate to from a book, movie, or TV show. Explain.
