

## Time-travelling Telescope

*An activity of "Earth's new space-time traveller".*

1) Read the article, "Earth's new space-time traveller" (page 12-13, *What's Up* August 2022) and fill in the following cloze passage:

The most powerful space \_\_\_\_\_ ever built is the James Webb Space Telescope. With a gold-plated mirror that measures 6.5 metres across, it is also the \_\_\_\_\_ and most complex. The Webb took 30 years to build and cost US\$10billion. With the Webb, astronomers will be able to look back some 13.5 billion years, when the \_\_\_\_\_ stars and galaxies were just formed. The telescope will study the planets in our solar system and \_\_\_\_\_ them with planets that orbit other stars. It will also look for habitable zones on other planets that can \_\_\_\_\_ life.

2a) Read the following extract from *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupery.

I have good reason to believe that the planet from which the little prince came is the asteroid known as B612. This asteroid has only once been seen through the telescope: by a Turkish astronomer, in 1909.

At the time, this astronomer made a grand presentation of his discovery before an International Congress of Astronomy. But since he was wearing Turkish national costume, nobody would believe him. Grown-ups are like that...

Fortunately for the reputation of Asteriod B612, a Turkish dictator ordered his subjects, on pain of death, to convert to European dress. In 1920 our astronomer repeated his demonstration, wearing elegant evening dress. This time everyone accepted his proofs.

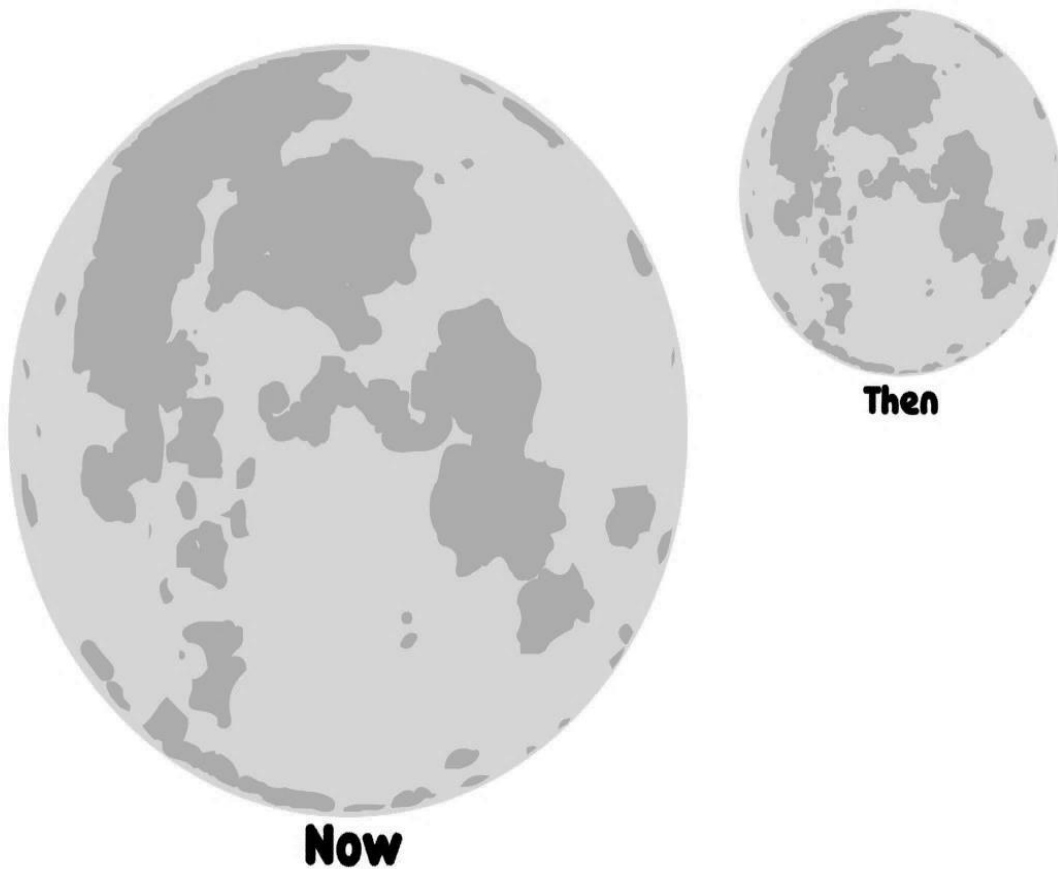
The reason I have told you so much about Asteroid B612, and let you know its number, is because of grown-ups. Grown-ups love figures. When you describe a new friend to them, they never ask you about the important things. They never say: 'What's his voice like? What are his favourite games? Does he collect butterflies?' Instead they demand: 'How old is he? How many brothers has he? How much does he weigh? How much does he earn?' Only then do they feel they know him. If you say to the grown-ups: 'I've seen a lovely house made of pink brick, with geraniums in the windows and doves on the roof', they are unable to picture such a house. You must say: 'I saw a house that cost a hundred thousand francs.' Then they cry out: 'Oh, how pretty!'

Again, you might say to them: 'The proof that the little prince existed is that he was enchanting, that he laughed, and that he was looking for a sheep. When someone wants a sheep, it is proof that they exist.' The grown-ups will merely shrug their shoulders, and treat you like a child. But if you tell them: 'The planet he came from is Asteroid B612', then they will be convinced, and will spare you all their questions. That is how they are. You must not hold it against them. Children have to be very indulgent towards grown-ups.

b) In the extract, the speaker believes that children and grown-ups describe things very differently. If a child were to look at the James Webb Space Telescope (refer to the pictures in the article), how do you think the child might describe it, according to the speaker? Write it down in a few sentences.

3a) Imagine you are looking through a telescope back into time when the adults around you were children.

On the faraway planet, draw or write down some things the adults had in the past that are seldom seen now. (e.g. typewriters, floppy disks, certain toys etc).



b) On the nearer planet, draw or write down things that you have now that you hope will remain even when you are an adult. Explain why.