

# Space Travel Guide

Elementary/middle grades

## Lesson Summary

Students design a travel guide to their favorite planet, including travel tips like what to pack and what sites to see.

## Prior Knowledge & Skills

- Characteristics of the planets
- Expressing ideas in writing and drawing

## AAAS Science Benchmarks

### **Habits of Mind**

*Communication skills*

### **The Physical Setting**

*The Universe*

## NSES Science Standards

- **Earth and space science:** Properties of Earth materials (K-4), Objects in the sky (K-4), Structure of the earth system (5-8), Earth in the solar system (5-8)

## Why Should We Care?

This activity invites students to imagine what it would be like to visit another planet. This isn't such a crazy notion; though a crewed mission to Mars hasn't been penciled into NASA's datebook yet, NASA's next moon mission (scheduled for 2018-2020) is designed as a test-run for Mars. Mars—or any other planetary destination—would require a lot more travel time, though (months or years, compared to a couple of days to get to the Moon), and so would require more cargo and place the astronauts at greater risk from muscle atrophy, radiation, and cabin fever!

**Teaching Time:** One 45-minute period

## Materials

For each student:

- Handouts on which to write and draw

To share with the whole class:

- Science fiction examples
- Extra paper for drawing

## Advanced Planning



**Preparation Time:** 30 minutes

1. Print and copy handouts
2. Review science fiction examples

*Source: American Museum of Natural History*

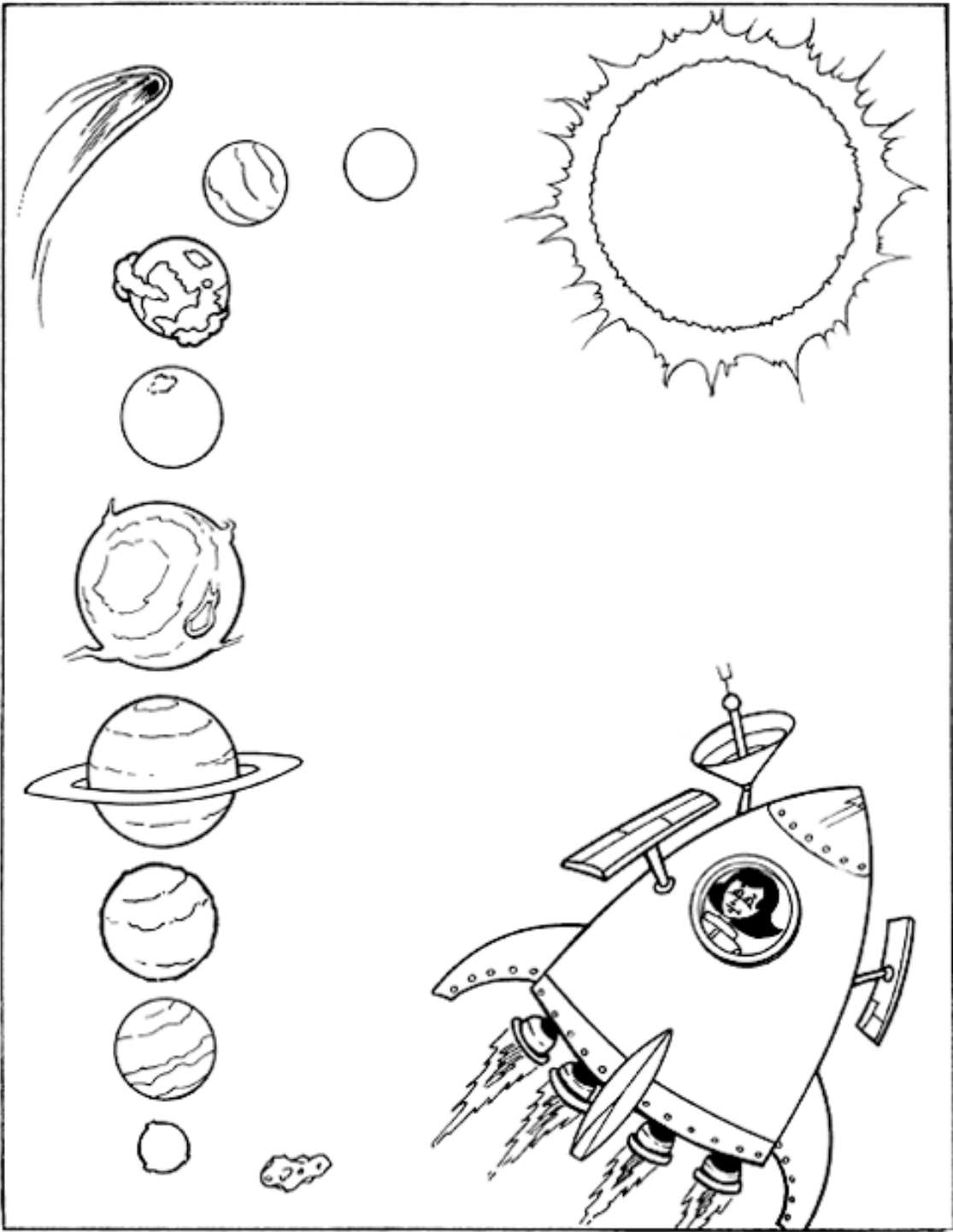
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**G**reat science fiction writers play with scientific facts to make a story more exciting. Sometimes the author pretends that a mystery has been solved or that humans have powers that they don't have. Some science fiction has actually inspired scientists by helping them imagine what might be possible.

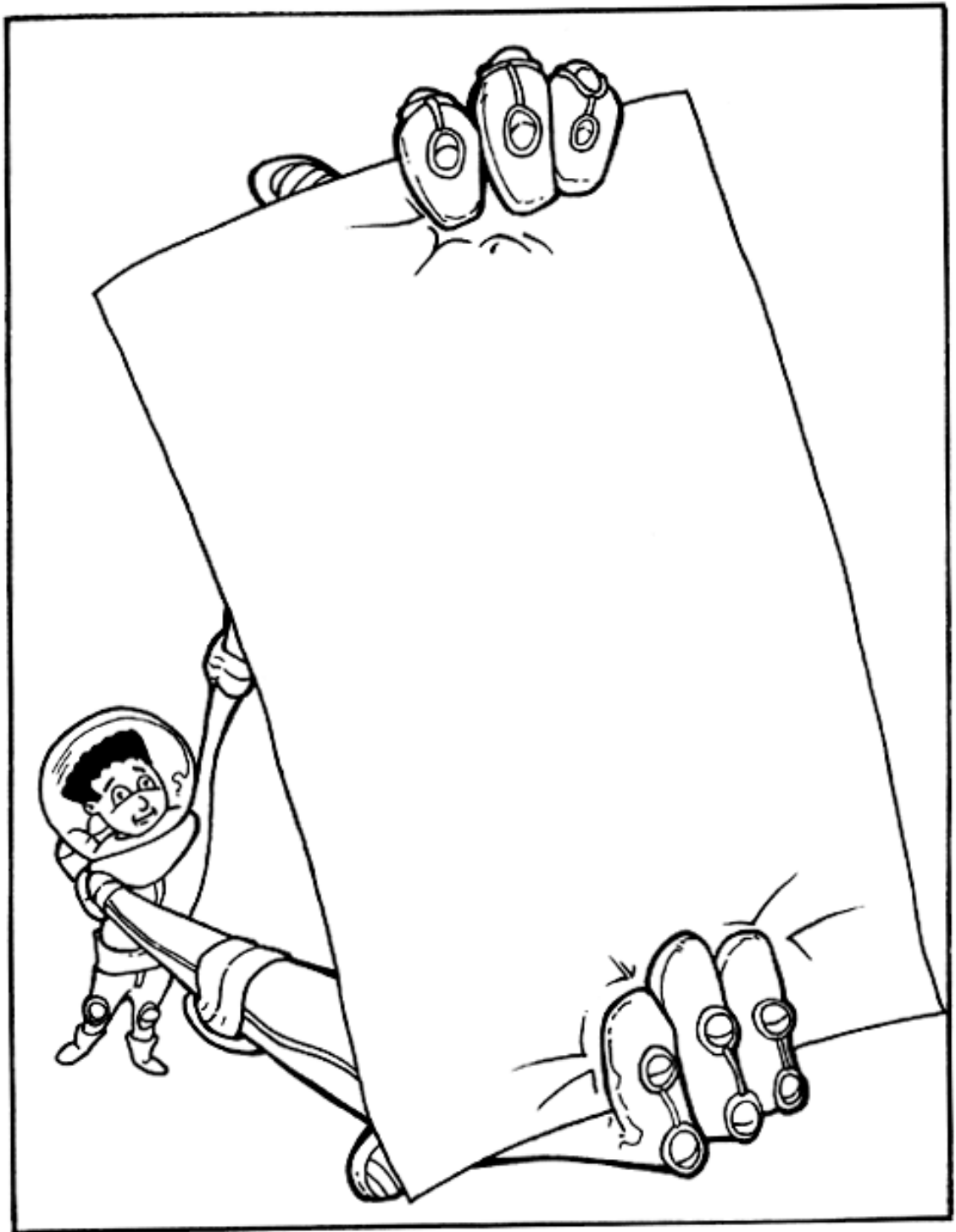


**Write a travel guide that will convince your Earthling pals that they must visit your favorite destination in space!**

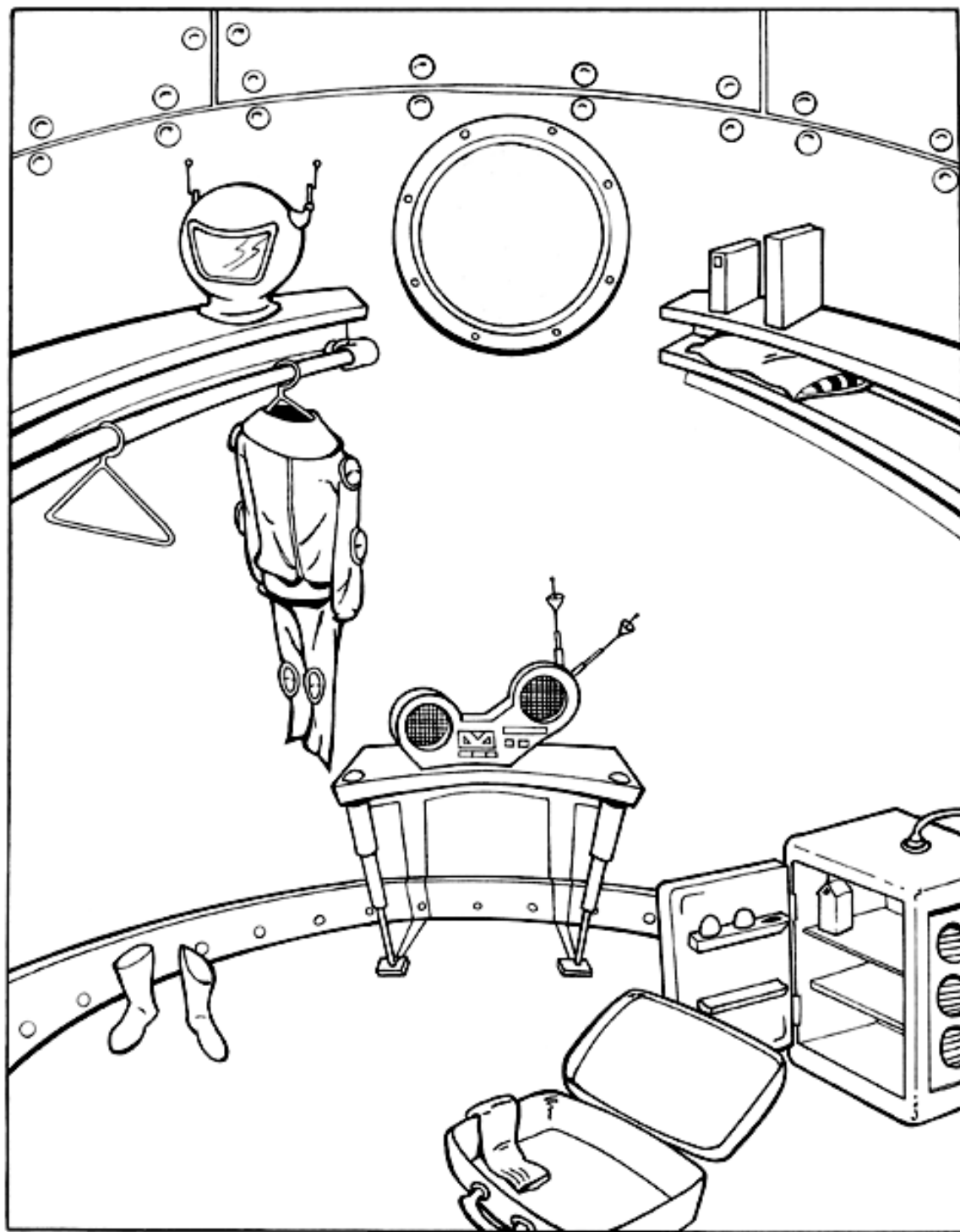
- Draw and write in the blank parts of the illustrations to tell your own story, and prepare others for trips like yours.
- You can draw more pages on your own if you want, too.
- Share your travel guide with others.



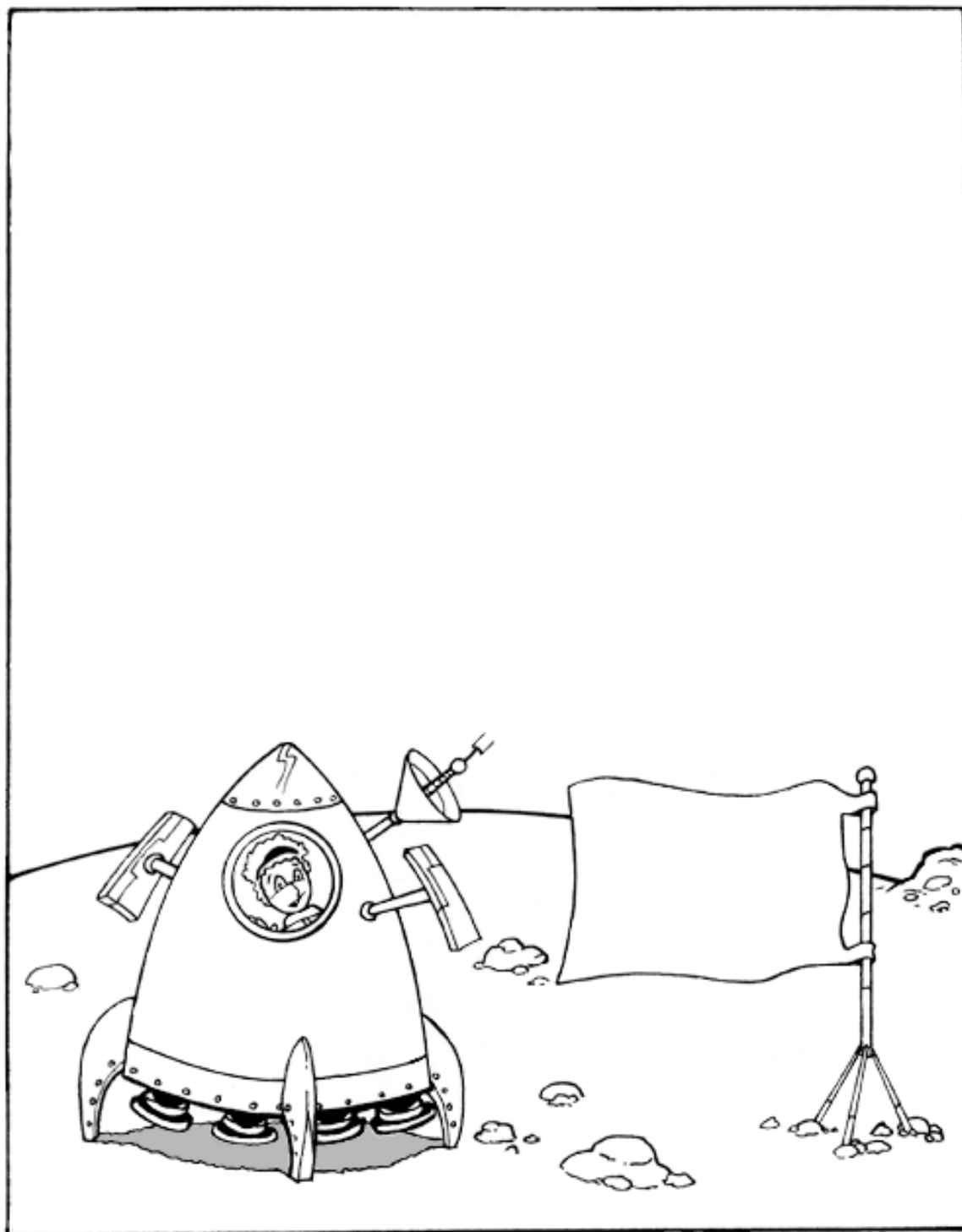
**Where did you go?**



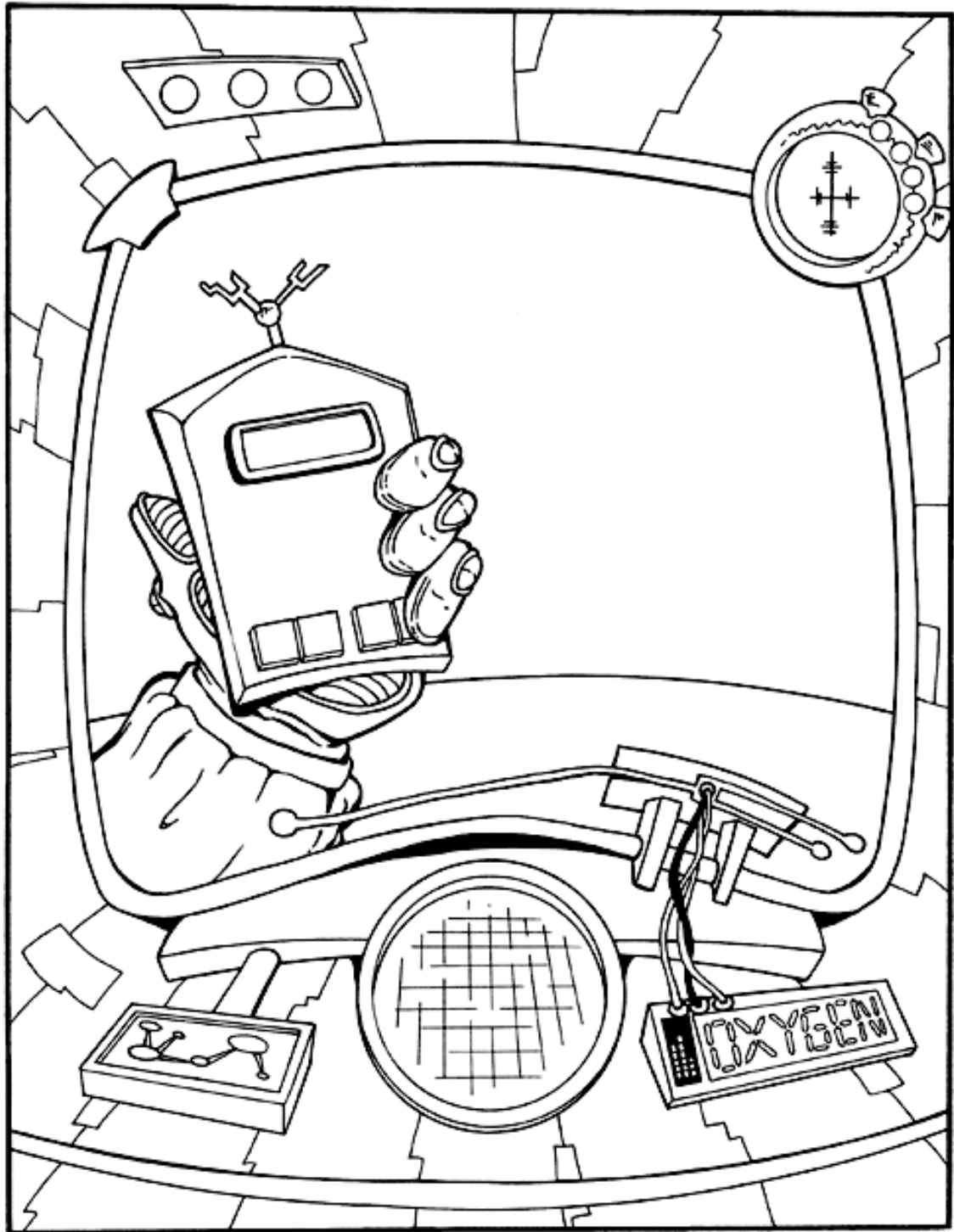
**What did the ad look like that made you decide to visit?**



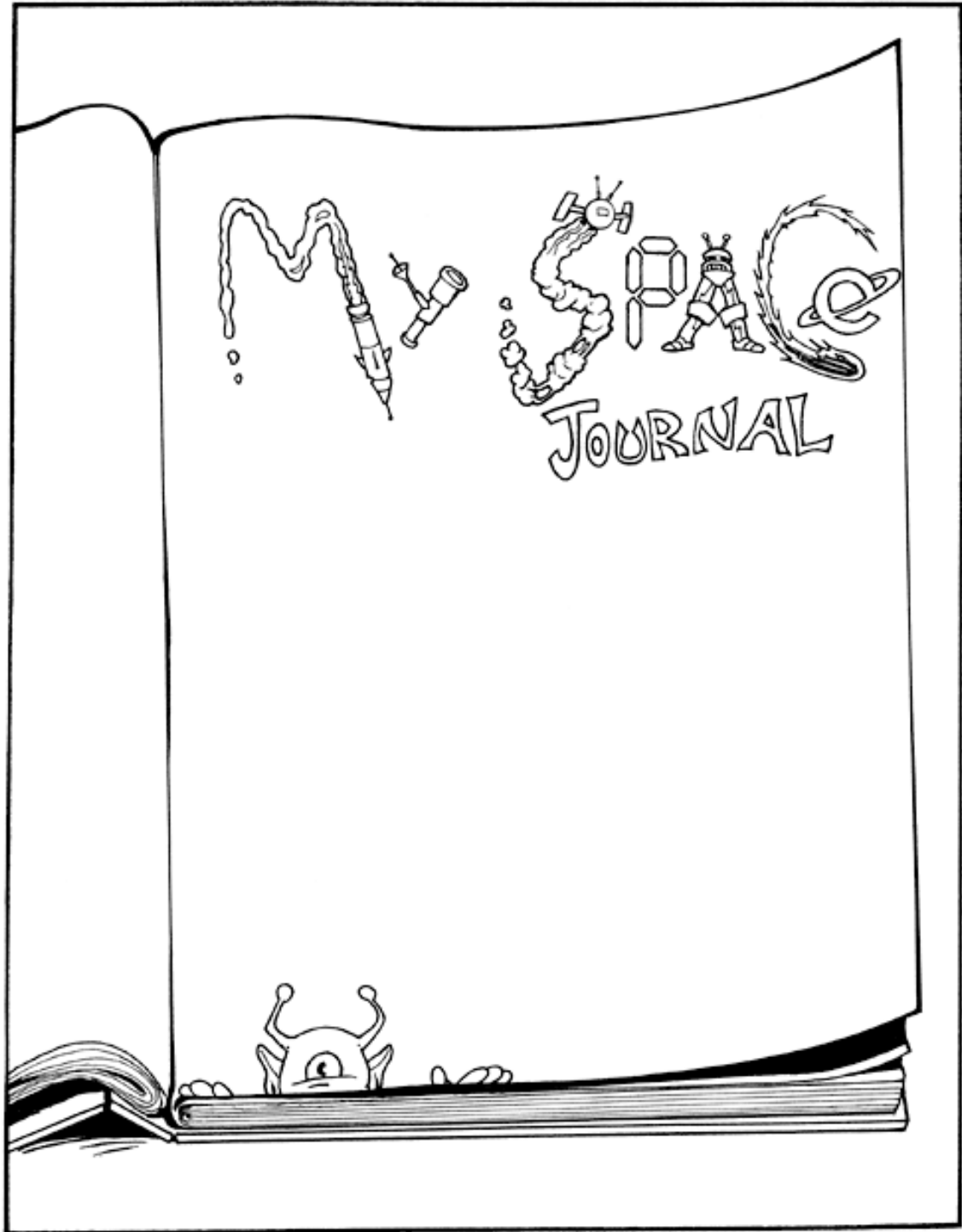
**What did you bring with you?**



**What did you see when you arrived?**



**What new and exciting discoveries did you make?**



**What were your favorite memories from your trip?**