

This is how the TRAPPIST-1f exoplanet could* look like.



Is there life?

Green aliens¹ come out of a UFO. They aren't people, they aren't animals. They don't live on Earth². Is this just a scene from a sci-fi film?

Some people think there is life on other planets. Life needs water, oxygen³, the right temperature, and more. Scientists from NASA look for⁴ planets where there could⁵ be life.

Planets and exoplanets

We live in a galaxy called the Milky Way. There are about 200 billion stars in the Milky Way. One of them is the Sun. Eight planets orbit⁶ the Sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Together they make the Solar System.

Planets which orbit a star outside our Solar System are called exoplanets. Astronomers know about more than 3,000 exoplanets, but they think there are many more. Could life exist on these exoplanets?

Exoplanets similar⁷ to Earth

There are exoplanets that look like⁸ Earth. For example, in the TRAPPIST-1 system. The planets that orbit the star TRAPPIST-1 are called TRAPPIST-1b, TRAPPIST-1c, TRAPPIST-1d, TRAPPIST-1e, TRAPPIST-1f, TRAPPIST-1g, TRAPPIST-1h. TRAPPIST-1d is the hot candidate for life.



▶ WRITE

TASK 1
jump

Name the planets in the Solar System.

a. M

b. V

c. E

d. M

e. J

f. S

g. U

h. N

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▶ Solar System

▶ TRAPPIST-1 System

b c d e f g h

Another system with planets where life could exist is around the star TOI 700. There are three exoplanets orbiting it: TOI 700 b, TOI 700 c and TOI 700 d. TOI 700d could also have water and oxygen.

Scientists still have a lot of work to do to find life on other planets. But the chances of finding aliens are bigger^{**} and bigger!

▶ LANGUAGE NOTE

* can – could ** big – bigger – the biggest

▶ VOCABULARY

¹ alien ['eɪliən] – mimozemšťan | ² Earth [z:θ] – Země | ³ oxygen ['ɒksɪdʒən] – kyslík
⁴ to look for (something) [lʊk fə] – hledat (něco) | ⁵ could [kəd] – mohl | ⁶ to orbit ['ɔ:bit] – obíhat
⁷ similar ['sɪmələ] – podobný | ⁸ to look like (something) [lʊk laɪk] – vypadat jako (něco)

There are more than 3,000 exoplanets.

▶ DID YOU KNOW?

Do you want to learn more about Earth-like exoplanets in the TRAPPIST-1 system? Watch this video.

Go to: