Task 1:
Read and understand the text. You will need to read the text thoroughly and understand what it is saying about the planet surface. There might be words you are unsure of, so use a dictionary to help you understand them. There are lots of facts hidden in the text that you will need to understand so that you can design your creature.
A NASA space ship called the Galileo, which is currently searching our galaxy, has sent a message back to earth. The message contains a description of a planet it has discovered.

Matadon is a small planet on the edges of our galaxy near the Orion nebula. It is an old planet with one moon which looks as though it has exploded because only about half of it remains. The atmosphere is different to ours. The skies are not blue, but rather they are a multitude of dazzling colours. We were able to breathe unaided on the planet but we felt light headed and dizzy after a while.

Creatures have evolved very differently to ours on earth. Gravity is lighter than on earth so creatures can jump and fly huge distances with little effort. The oceans and seas do not have tides and waves as we know them. They are very still like lakes. Many creatures have adapted themselves to be able to live both in water and on land very easily. The vegetation is very strange, not green like ours, plants grow to be huge sizes and some seem alive like creatures.

Days and night are much shorter than ours. Because of the lack of moon light, the nights are very black. The sunlight during the day is dazzlingly bright. For any creature to evolve it must be able to survive the heat and the radiation from the intense sun. How any creature has been able to develop eyes to be able to cope with these conditions is beyond me. But they have. Life forms are diverse and strange, like nothing we have seen on earth before………

The message breaks down at this crucial point. But at least we know that there is alien life out there. People will want to know what it looks like. We want YOU to try to illustrate it.

Can you design a creature to survive on this planet? What would it look like? How would it survive these particular conditions? Is it a meat eater or a vegetarian? You might want to consider what the planet looks like also, with its strange skies and vegetation.
Task 2:

Identify the facts from the text. Once you have established what the features of the planet surface are, you will need to list them so that you can use this information to help you. Mind Mapping software might help you to do this, such as: Inspiration software at: www.inspiration.com
Task 3:

Turn this written information into a picture. Try to create pictures in your mind of what this planet might look like. Turn these thoughts into rough, quick sketches. Do not worry about how artistically good these drawings are. Just sketch any thoughts that come into your mind. Try looking at web sites for ideas, but don't copy. Draw and sketch lots and lots of ideas until you have exhausted your mind!
Task 4

Group Work- Discuss, finalise and organise final design.

Develop these sketches into more complete artwork. You should now select and reject ideas that you think are good/bad. Choose your favourites then try to add more details to them. You might think or look at creatures in nature to get ideas for things such as: Scales, Fur, skin, colouration, feathers, claws, hands, shells, beaks, noses, legs and arms. Nature has given us millions of ideas!
Task 5:

Make a 3-D model of an Alien. Making your creature. Making things in 3D is very difficult, but fun! Some tips that will help you are: think about making a skeleton out of wire. This is called an armature. Cover this with paper mache or build large shapes with rolled newspaper and tape. You should make your creature fully BEFORE you start painting. Add as much detail as you can to make your model look as good as you can make it.
Task 6

Ok, now comes the fun part!

It’s time to get all of your classes models together and display them. Once you have done that, it’s time to discuss which models would survive the hostile terrain and which would quickly become extinct.

Whose creature is the T-Rex and whose is the fluffy bunny waiting to become the next snack?
Links to artists

Here are a couple of artists who produce excellent alien monster designs:
www.andyhopp.com
www.derekmonster.com

Also check out the designs of alien creatures on movies such as: ‘Men in Black’ and ‘Star Wars.’

Teacher’s note: Derek Monster web site features Sketches of the female nude form.
HOMEWORK ONE
Design Task

Produce a design for a creature to live on an Alien planet. This planet is a very difficult place to live.

• There is lots of Volcano’s and molten lava.
• Meteors rain from the skies.
• Fierce lizards with huge teeth, prowl around eating everything they can.
• Plants have razor sharp leaves and spit acid at their prey.
• The skies are full of flesh eating birds that swoop down on their victims.

Design a creature that would survive this planet. Use drawings and/or notes to help you explain your idea.

You might hand draw this work or use a computer drawing programme and E-mail your homework to your teacher.
HOMEWORK TWO
Design Task

Produce a design for a creature to live on an Alien planet. This planet is a very difficult place to live.

- This is a cold planet, full of icebergs and snow drifts.
- Weather is harsh, freezing temperatures and hailstorms happen all year round.
- Creatures need to be able to melt ice to make water to drink.
- Plants are very hard to find.
- There are lots of caves.

Design a creature that would survive this planet. Use drawings and/or notes to help you explain your idea. You might hand draw this work or use a computer drawing programme and E-mail your homework to your teacher.
HOMEWORK Three
Design Task

Produce a design for a creature to live on an Alien planet. This planet is a very difficult place to live.

• This is a planet of water and oceans
• Sea creatures can grow to huge sizes.
• There is a wide range of fishes and mammals, from small creatures to large.
• There is coral life and amazing plants.

Design a creature that would survive this planet. Use drawings and/or notes to help you explain your idea.
You might hand draw this work or use a computer drawing programme and E-mail your homework to your teacher.
HOMEWORK Four
Collection of materials

Students are to bring in as many different materials as they can find around their house, shed, garage etc. (Make sure you ask your parents for permission).

Pupils will receive extra tokens for bringing in unusual materials: tin-foil, fabric, glitter, toilet- roll tubes, pegs, TV knobs, circuit boards, DVDs, mirrors, twigs, sand, rope, spray paint, brushes, balls, balloons etc, etc, etc.......
HOMEWORK Five
Imaginative drawing

Imagine that you are lying in bed and are finding it extremely difficult to sleep. You have checked your alarm clock several times during the night and still you are awake. You are becoming more and more frustrated that you are unable to sleep, especially as light has started to shine through the gaps in your curtain and you have a very important day ahead. All of a sudden you hear an extremely strange *whurring* noise outside. It is a noise you have never heard before.

You open the curtains very quickly. At that precise moment draw your imaginative view from the window.......
Aliens Project
Notes for Teachers
This project was originally devised as a Year 7 group project upon entry to KS3. The examples of artwork shown in the full PDF pack are examples of that. The purpose of the Unit is to make the Scheme of work accessible for the students themselves, so that they can access the work at their own pace, rather than being dictated by the teacher. It is therefore simple and easy to read (I hope!)
The outcomes of the project might be done in a number of different ways:
1. As a painting
2. As a 3D model – Clay or 3D materials
3. As small group work
I created a sound file for the Galileo text, with me reading the text pretending to be an astronaut! The kids love it and it helps with reading and understanding.

It is essentially a design and make task, but the fun element is at the end of the project when all of the different models come together and the students discuss which model would survive and which would become extinct. The boys love that. This has been an enormously successful project in class.

www.paulcarneyarts.com
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want to consider what the planet looks like also, with its strange skies and vegetation.

Links to useful websites:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/space/
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Extraterrestrial_life
http://www.nasa.gov/home/index.html
http://www.space.com/
http://hubblesite.org/
http://www.anatomorphex.com/
http://www.starwars.com/