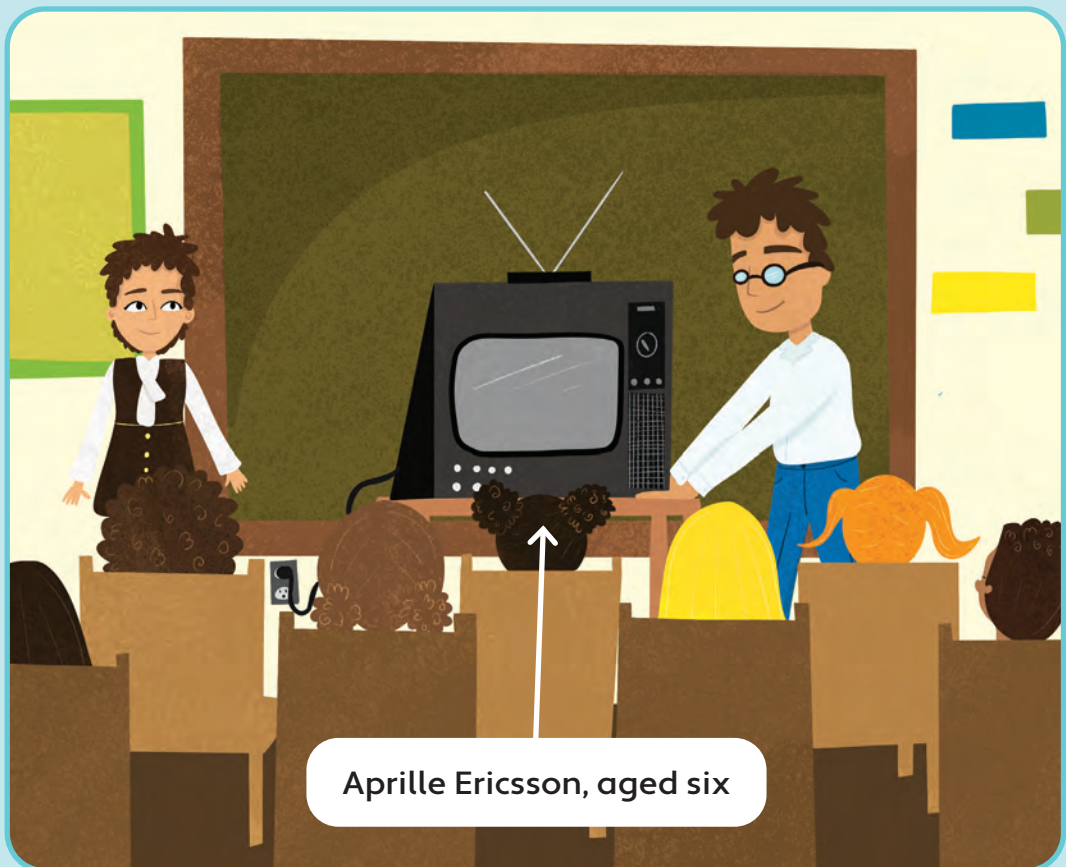


Lift off!

Aprille Ericsson and her classmates sat quietly at their desks. A sudden knock on the door made them jump.

“Come in!” called Miss Rosenfeld, their teacher.

A parent entered the classroom with a small television. The children gasped and leaned forward to get closer to it. They were about to watch something very special.



Aprille Ericsson, aged six



Miss Rosenfeld turned on the television. A black and white picture appeared on the screen. An image of a rocket came into view.

Miss Rosenfeld smiled. “The Apollo 12 rocket is about to launch!” she said.

Aprille and her friends watched excitedly.

A voice crackled from the television speakers.

“3 ... 2 ... 1 ... 0. Lift off!”

The rocket blasted into the air. The class clapped and cheered.

The launch of
Apollo 12 in 1969.



The **astronauts** inside the Apollo 12 rocket were going to walk on the moon! Aprille had seen astronauts walk on the moon once before. However, watching a rocket set off for the moon made it seem more real.

Aprille could feel goosebumps on her skin. Her dream to work in space exploration had begun.

Aprille Ericsson

Aprille Ericsson was born on 1st April 1963. She lived with her mum and sisters in New York, America. Her mum always told her to follow her dreams.

At school, Aprille had lots of different interests. She joined the school band. She played basketball and baseball. However, Aprille loved science most of all.



When she was seventeen, Aprille was chosen to attend a summer school for children interested in **engineering**. Aprille got to learn lots of different things about science and engineering.

The James Webb Space Telescope

NASA has created a huge **telescope** to look deep into space. The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) took many years to build. Lots of people worked on it, including Aprille. It finally launched into space on 25th December 2021.



The further we look into space, the more we can discover about the universe. The JWST can look so far away that it can see the first stars and **galaxies** being formed!

Six months after launch, NASA received the first images from the JWST. The team gasped with joy! The images were even more beautiful and detailed than they had dared to imagine.



This is one of the first images taken by the JWST. It showed hundreds of galaxies that had never been seen before.