

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Kerem Osman Çubuk
Astronomer

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Hi there! I am Kerem Osman Çubuk – An astronomer



Where do I work?

I work at the Armagh Observatory and Planetarium. But the big telescope I use is located in Australia.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

My dream job was being a lorry driver when I was in primary school. Then, in high school, I noticed I was really enjoying every science topic, especially physics and biology.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I really love nature, hiking, scuba-diving, and seeing new places. I also play video games and listen to podcasts or audiobooks.

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What do I do as an astronomer?

Astronomers observe and study everything outside of our planet, like other planets, stars, and galaxies. We use big telescopes to see more detail. In my current project, I use a telescope bigger than a tennis court to observe clouds of gas and dust, which is where new planets and stars form.



How does what I do make the world a better place?

We still don't know the real shape of our galaxy. I am mapping the clouds of dust and gas in the Milky Way to try and understand its real shape. For this we always need to use new technologies, many of which were invented during space explorations.

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What I like about my job



I love learning new things. Space is bigger than we can ever imagine and there are so many unknowns, which as a curious person, I am super excited about! We observe places that no one has ever seen before. I like the possibility of seeing other civilizations one day.

Challenges I have faced

The country I was born and grew up in was not a well-developed one, especially in the subject of astronomy. The science language in the world is English, and English was not my first language. Also, dealing with scoliosis (a curved spine) during high school was pretty tough.

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If you want to be an astronomer, you need:

- ✦ **to be curious and eager** to learn new things
- ✦ **to be interested** in the night sky planets, stars, and alien civilizations
- ✦ **to question things** and enjoy solving problems
- ✦ **to be able to work alone** and at night when necessary



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an astronomer like Kerem Osman Çubuk?

Why? Why not?

- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become an astronomer?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?



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Free supporting resources for astronomy

Science At Work – see ‘Gene Cernan’ and ‘Meet to space scientists’

Science fun at Home – see ‘World Science Week’

City Science Stars – practical science activities (for 9-11 years) using links to football, other sports and space

I bet you didn’t know... articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning and Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- We have telescopes out in space studying the universe
- How to play planetary hide and seek
- Insight into Mars
- Ice giants at the end of the Solar System
- There is a storm coming and it is not going away
- There is lightning at the end of the Solar System

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