



# Doctor Who?

Your task today is to investigate the long running BBC TV series Doctor Who. To complete your task, you must answer the questions set in each section of the webquest, by accessing the various websites provided, or finding some information of your own. Save your answers in a Word document, and when you have completed the task, email your results to your teacher.

## 1. So what is with this Time Lord thing anyway? (10 Mins)

[Here](#) is a definition.

Take a look at the pictures and character biographies on this [BBC site](#) for the 'classic' Doctors and then [here](#) for the 'modern' Doctors (click on the tab labelled "The Doctor" on the left of the screen to access information about the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Doctors.)

- What do you identify as the major differences between the classic Doctors and the modern Doctors?
- What influence do you think modern technologies have had in shaping the way the Doctor is presented now compared with how he was presented in the beginning?

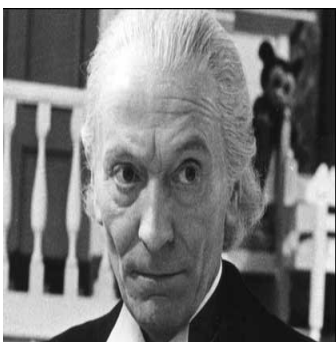
## 2. A long and complex history. (10 Mins)

Scroll down the screen at [Telectronic](#) until you reach the set of requirements for the types of characters which the BBC was working with before the series began. (It's the first time a caps lock heading is used in the document.) Read the paragraph preceding the headings, as well as the paragraphs under the headings. These character descriptions are of 'stock characters' – a type of basic set of characters that can exist in any TV show.

- Do you think that TV shows requirements for characters will have changed since the 1960s? Explain your answer.
- What type of stock characters would you expect to find in the current season of Doctor Who?



## 3. The role of Companions. (10 Mins)



The Doctor vary rarely travels alone, but the type of companion that he travels with has changed over time.

- What type of companion would you choose for the original Doctor (picture on left)?

- What about for the most recent Doctor (picture on right)?
- What is your explanation for the types of companion that you have chosen for him?
- Do some research about the companions for the [first](#) Doctor and the [11<sup>th</sup> Doctor](#). How close were you in your companion selection?
- Do you think there should be any romantic involvement between the Doctor and his companions? Explain your answer.



#### 4. Plots, schemes, themes & messages. (10 Mins)

- Lyndsey Turner suggests that “Doctor Who reflects the fears and obsessions of contemporary Britain with scalpel-sharp accuracy.” Visit the website for the most recent [season](#) and have a look at the pictures and titles of the episodes. What themes or interesting plot developments would you put into science fiction TV episodes with titles like these? Feel free to click on a few of the episodes and see if your guess is correct.



- Stephen Moffat suggests he writes scary Doctor Who episodes because that's how he remembers Doctor Who. What TV shows or movies scared you when you were younger? What were the elements of those shows that scared you? Do you still get scared? Do you think that it's appropriate for a children's show to be scary? Explain your answer.

#### 5. Let's play! (10 Mins)

The [BBC website](#) has a number of Doctor Who games designed for children younger than you. Have a play of a few of them. Do you think that they would appeal to young children's tastes? Why or why not?

**DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR WORD DOCUMENT CONTAINING ALL THE ANSWERS AND EMAIL IT TO YOUR TEACHER!**

***Star Wars* is adolescent nonsense; *Close Encounters* is obscurantist drivel; *Star Trek* can turn your brains to puree of bat guano; and the greatest science fiction series of all time is *Doctor Who*! And I'll take you all on, one-by-one or all in a bunch to back it up!**

- Harlan Ellison, recalling an address to science-fiction fans, in his Introduction to *Doctor Who and the Talons of Weng-Chiang* (1977) by Terrance Dicks, p. vii

**[http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Doctor\\_Who](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Doctor_Who)**