

Name Class Date

A VERY BRITISH DOCTOR



Who is Doctor Who? That's a difficult question to answer! In the first fifty years of this iconic TV show from 1963 to 2013, 11 different actors played the famous doctor. So what is *Doctor Who* then? Science fiction changed forever on 23rd November,

1963 with the first episode on BBC 1; *An Unearthly Child*. More than fifty years and 800 episodes later and the programme is part of the British national identity. The show follows the adventures of a 'Time Lord' as he explores the universe in his TARDIS, a time-travelling spaceship in the shape of a blue police telephone box. The doctor combats different space aliens as he travels around the universe saving civilisations and helping people in trouble. The programme became a national favourite in the UK, and continues to attract big television audiences. It is popular with both children and adults and especially science fiction fans. In the *Guinness Book of Records*, the show has entries as the 'Longest running science fiction television show in the world' and 'World's most successful science fiction series'. So what about the future? Well, the show is famous for the changing face of the doctor, but could the next face be a woman's? The first female Doctor Who? Who knows? But the show continues to be an essential part of British popular culture. Here's to another fifty years!

1 63 Read and listen to the text about Doctor Who and answer the questions.

- How many different people were the Doctor between 1963 and 2013?
Eleven.
- When did *Doctor Who* start?
On 23rd November, 1963.
- How does the Doctor travel around the universe?
In a time-travelling spaceship in the shape of a blue police telephone box.
- What does the Doctor do as he travels around the universe?
He combats different space aliens, saves civilisations and helps people in trouble.

2 Are the sentences T (True) or F (False)? Correct the false sentences.

- The first episode of *Doctor Who* was called *An Unearthly Child*.
T
- There are more than 900 episodes.
F. There are more than 800 episodes.
- The show is only popular with science fiction fans.
F. It's also popular with children and adults.
- The show appears in the record books as the longest running science fiction television show in Britain.
F. It appears as the longest-running science fiction television show in the world.

3 Answer the questions.

- Are there any long-running TV series in your country?
Students' own answers
- Do you believe time-travel is possible? Why?/Why not?
Students' own answers