

The first car in space - 8 March, 2018

In the first week of February, 2018, a car went into space. It is still there and will probably go around and round in space for thousands of years.

What happened in February?

How long is the car likely to be in space for?

The 'space car' was the idea of Elon Musk, a businessman, engineer and inventor who lives in the United States. Musk was born in Pretoria, South Africa and moved to North America when he was 17 years old to study physics in Canada and then in the USA.

Who had the idea for the 'space car'?

What does he do?

Where was he born?

When and why did he move to North America?

In 2003, Musk was one of the people who started Tesla Inc., a company that makes electric vehicles. Tesla Inc. also makes solar panels, which are used to produce electricity. Musk wants to reduce global warming and to stop the burning of coal, oil and other fuels that produce greenhouse gases.

What did Musk do in 2003?

What two things does Tesla do?

What does Musk want to do?

Greenhouse gases make the Earth warmer and cause climate change. He believes that people are damaging our planet and wants to start the first human colony on Mars.

What are greenhouse gases doing?

What is Musk's goal?

On 6 February, Musk's company sent a rocket called Falcon Heavy into space from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, USA. The rocket was carrying a red Tesla sports car and a 'driver' called Starman. Of course, Starman is not a real person but a plastic model wearing a spacesuit.

What was the name of the rocket?

Where was the rocket launched from?

What colour and design was the car?

What is the name of the driver?

What is Starman wearing?

The car will travel 400 million kilometres in an orbit around the Sun and it will reach Mars. It is carrying a camera, which will send pictures back to Earth of its flight. It is also playing David Bowie's song 'Starman'.

How far will the car travel?

Which planet is it going to?

What is in the car?

What song is being played in the car?

Elon Musk is a very rich man. The cost of sending the red sports car into space was around 90 million dollars. No one is sure where Falcon Heavy is now but scientists believe it is somewhere between Mars and Jupiter.

Is Musk rich or poor?

How much has it cost to send the car into space?

Where do scientists think Falcon Heavy is at the moment?