

THURSDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

Konstantin Tsiolkovsky was a Russian scientist and **pioneer** of space flight, rocketry and astronautics. He was born on this day in 1857. He was born in a rural area, his father was a forrester, then a teacher. Aged 9 Konstantin caught scarlet fever and lost his hearing, and then his mother died when he was 13. Due to his hearing problem he wasn't allowed in school, and he passed his time reading books, and began to imagine space travel, inspired by Jules Verne's novels.

Konstantin became a teacher and independently completed scientific research, despite living a long way from major universities. He wrote more than 400 works, including 90 published pieces on space travel, such as steering thrusters, space stations and airlocks. He invented the workings of rockets years before the first plane flight. Many of his ideas were used later as the technology caught up!

He worked as a high school maths teacher until retirement in 1920, aged 63. He died aged 78 in 1935, and has several memorials around the world, including the pictured memorial in Borovsk, where he taught, showing the young Konstantin looking up at the stars.

- 1) Do any parts of Konstantin's story inspire you?
- 2) What would you want your memorial to show?
- 3) Konstantin is quoted as saying '*Earth is the cradle of humanity, but one cannot live in a cradle forever.*' what do you think?

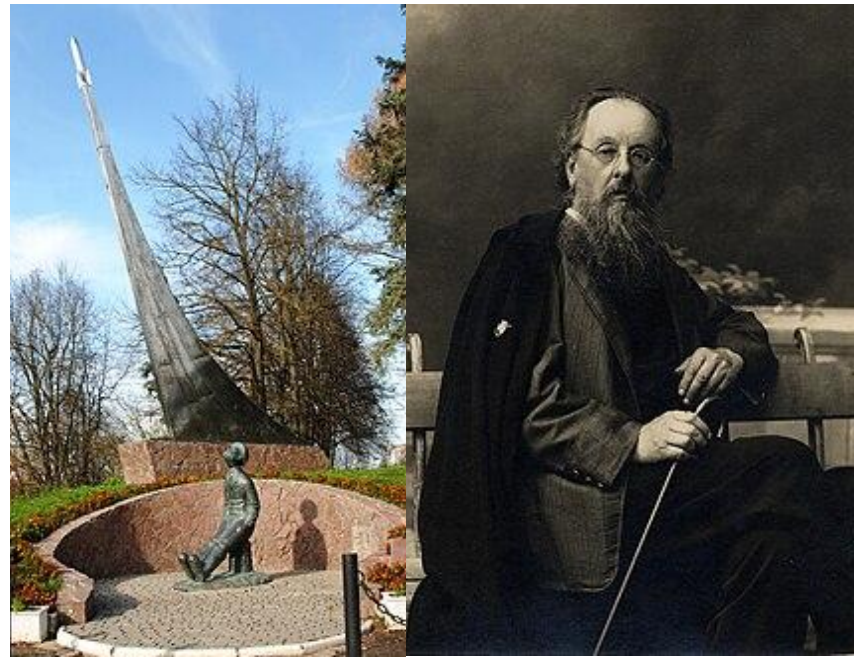


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