# Parent Guide

@twinklparents

We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more exciting, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the Twinkl Parents website.

games

crafts

puzzles

experiments

word searches

**What is this resource and how do I use it?**

Encourage reading about significant people which may open up opportunities for further reading and conversations about careers in science.

**What skills does this practise?**

- Empathy
- Reading
- Extending Vocabulary

**Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions**

Why not explore more women in science and engineering with these Celebrating Women in STEM fact sheets? Read about some influential scientists and their work with these Influential Scientists Posters.

Parents Blog

Twinkl Kids' TV

Homework Help

twinkl Parents Hub

# Maggie Aderin-Pocock

**Born:** 9th March 1968

**Space Scientist and Science Communicator**

## Early Life

Born on 9th March 1968, Maggie has been fascinated by the night sky from an early age. As a child, she wanted to be an astronaut. Growing up in London with her Nigerian parents, there was little money to spend on luxuries, so she saved her pocket money to buy her first telescope. Sadly, it wasn't very good. Instead of being able to look into the night sky and study the stars, her telescope split the light into many different colours distorting her view.

Maggie was not deterred by this; shortly afterwards, she saw an advert for a telescope-making class in her local community. She signed up to the class and, after some experimenting with parts, software and electronics, her finished telescope could not only see the distant stars but also track them. This opened up a whole new world of exploration and discovery.

Maggie went to 13 different schools as a child and, although she has dyslexia, she enjoyed learning about science and continued her passion after finishing school, earning a degree in physics from Imperial College London in 1990. Moving onto complete a PhD in 1994, Maggie was now a doctor of mechanical engineering. Her dyslexia has never been a barrier to her learning and passions.

## Career

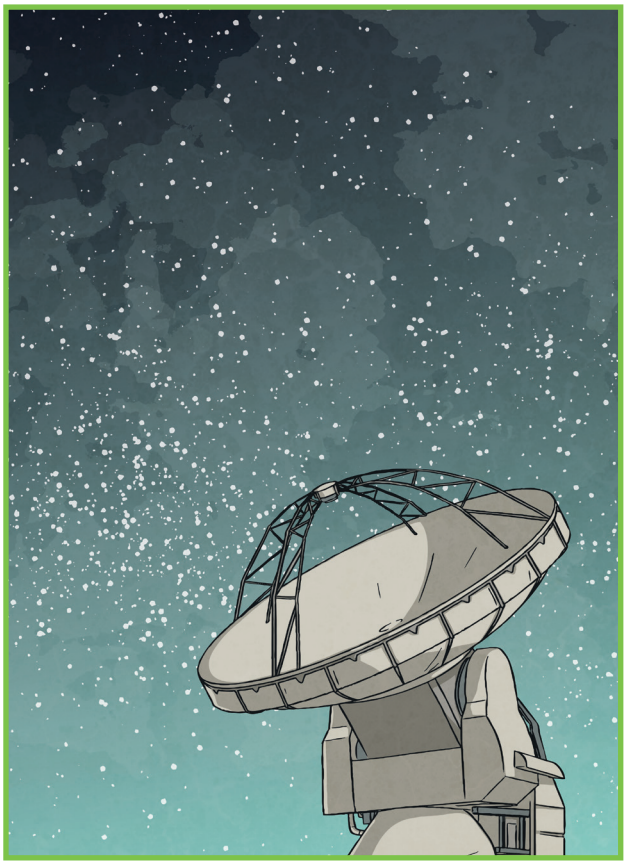
Over her career in science, she has worked on a range of projects including missile warning

# Maggie Aderin-Pocock

systems and landmine detectors for the Ministry of Defence.

Maggie's interest in telescopes and stargazing led her back into research and development projects. With a group of engineers, they successfully worked together on the Gemini telescope based in Chile. They developed a part to bolt onto the telescope called a super spectrograph. This gave scientists an opportunity to not only see the starlight but to analyse it in detail and help understand more about distant stars. Later, Maggie was the lead scientist on a project using satellites to measure wind speed which would aid research on climate change.

Aside from her work on research, Maggie regularly visits schools to talk to young people about opportunities to work and study science and engineering, inspiring others to become future astronauts, scientists and engineers. Maggie has set up her own company to help change the stereotype in engineering, working with people all over the world giving talks and inspiring presentations.



**Later Life and Achievements**

She has been awarded a number of honorary doctorates for her work in science.

In 2009, she was awarded an MBE for her services to science and science education and, in 2019, she won the Woman of the Year Innovation Award.

# Maggie Aderin-Pocock

Maggie can be seen on a variety of television programmes, presenting The Sky at Night and Stargazing as well as appearing in Doctor Who and a range of entertainment panel shows.

She continues to inspire future generations and is determined to breakdown the stereotypes in science and engineering.

## Glossary

**Mechanical engineering** - The area of engineering working with the design and construction of machines.

**BSc** - Bachelor of Science. A degree level qualification with a science or technical focus.

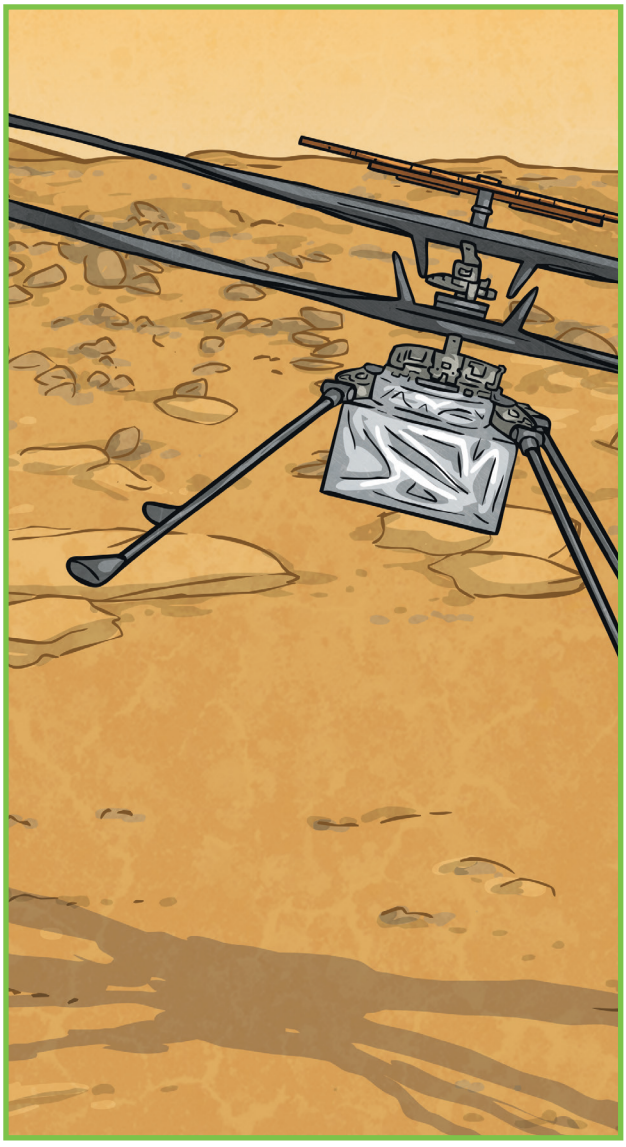
**PhD** - Doctor of Philosophy. An academic or professional degree above a Master's.

**Dyslexia** - An additional need where interpreting letters, words or symbols can be more challenging.

**Gemini telescope** - Either of the two 8m telescopes, one in Hawaii and the other in Chile.

**Spectrograph** - An instrument used to determine the chemical make-up of a visible source of light.

**Stereotype** - A fixed image of an idea, image, person or thing.



***Disclaimer:** We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation. All information is correct as of 15.12.21.