

Is Time Travel Possible?

This puzzle comes from a book called, 'Just Think', by Philip West.

Each puzzle in the book starts with an argument between twins, Philip and Phoebe. They rarely agree on anything and always believe themselves to be correct.

From learning about the 4Cs, we know to be caring when our opinions differ. Read or listen to their argument, think about their disagreement, and make up your own mind.

Philip has been watching 'Dr Who' and he is excited about the possibility of time travel. 'The dinosaurs. Yes, I'd definitely like to see them. And the building of Stonehenge. Then maybe I'll go forwards to when I'm grown up and never come back. That'd be fun!'

Phoebe, his twin sister, sighs patiently. 'Dr Who is only a story, Phillip. You can't really travel backwards or forwards in time, you know. It's impossible.'

'No, it isn't!' retorts her brother. 'Science says time is a fourth dimension, like length, breadth and height. So of course you can travel around in it. I'm going to make my own time machine, just like the Tardis!'

Phoebe sighs again. 'No, Philip. Time always goes forwards at the same speed, and we are stuck in it. You can't speed it up or slow it down, and you can't jump forwards or backwards. That's proper science, like we do at school.'

But Philip is not to have his dreams squashed so easily. He wanders off to sketch out a design for his time-travelling breakthrough. He'll show her!

- **What is time?**
- **When you are bored, time seems to go more slowly. Does it really?**
- **We measure time using a clock, but how do we know that our clock is running at a steady speed?**