

Space Exploration Scavenger Hunt

Would you like to travel to space? Astronauts have been exploring space since 1957. Read more about space exploration on the World Book Web and see if you can find the answers to the following questions!

Find It!

1. What do satellites do?
2. How does the spacecraft overcome the earth's gravity when launching into space?
3. What do the letters in NASA stand for? When was NASA created?
4. The United States names its space explorers astronauts. What name does Russia give to its space explorers?
5. The first human being to travel into space was from what country? What was his name?
6. What does a payload specialist do on space flights?

Did You Know?

- ◆ Earth revolves around the sun at a distance of about 93 million miles (150 million kilometers).
- ◆ In 2006, U.S. scientists launched the New Horizons probe which will try to explore Pluto. The probe is expected to fly by Pluto in 2015.
- ◆ China sent its first astronaut into space in 2003.
- ◆ Space travel is very dangerous and there have been a number of astronauts and cosmonauts who have lost their lives while on space missions.
- ◆ Astronauts practice for the weightlessness in space by going in large airplanes that arc and dive in the air, making the astronauts feel weightless for 30 seconds each time.

Learn More!

- ◆ Watch this video about the first trip to the moon by the astronauts of Apollo 11!
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- ◆ Find out about important dates in space exploration.
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Answer Key

1. Satellites beam television programs and telephone calls around the globe.
2. Powerful booster rockets give off gases that push the spacecraft off of the ground.
3. NASA, The National Aeronautics and Space Administration, was created in 1958.
4. Cosmonauts
5. Yuri A. Gagarin was from the Soviet Union.
6. Payload specialists are scientists who do experiments in space.