TIME FOR KIDS

Living in Space



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Table of Contents

Life in Space 4

Johnson Space Center 8

Space Gear 12

Eating in Space 18

It's Bedtime! 20

Free Time 22

Staying Clean 26

Glossary 30

Index 31

About the Author 32

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Life in Space

Since the beginning, people have looked into the sky and wondered what it would be like to travel into space. Today, we don't have to wonder anymore.

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What is life like when you travel into space? Nobody knows better than the people who have been there. **Astronauts** can help answer many of our questions about living in space.



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Astronauts must work hard and study for a long time before they can travel into space. They are usually picked from many people who want to train for this kind of work. It can take many years to become an astronaut. But where do they start?



▲ Astronauts train for years before they can go into space.

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Brave Explorers

An astronaut is someone who travels from Earth to learn more about life in space. The word *astronaut* comes from the Greek words meaning *star sailor*.

Johnson Space Center

The United States is one of the leading countries for training astronauts. Astronauts in the U.S. begin their training at the **Johnson Space Center** in Houston, Texas. The center first opened in 1961.

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▲ President Johnson congratulates astronauts in front of the Johnson Space Center.

Presidential Power

The Johnson Space Center was named in honor of former President Lyndon B. Johnson, a Texas native. He was president in the 1960s during a worldwide push to land people on the moon for the first time.

The Johnson Space Center has a famous room called the **Mission Control Center**. This is where people on Earth direct the space missions and talk to astronauts in space. They help the astronauts with the work they are doing. The Mission Control Center also watches over the astronauts and their spacecraft to be sure they are safe.

▼ The Mission Control Center is where people on Earth talk to astronauts in space.



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NASA

NASA is the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, founded in 1958. The Johnson Space Center was created to be NASA's main center for the design, development, and testing of spacecraft.