Space Pilots

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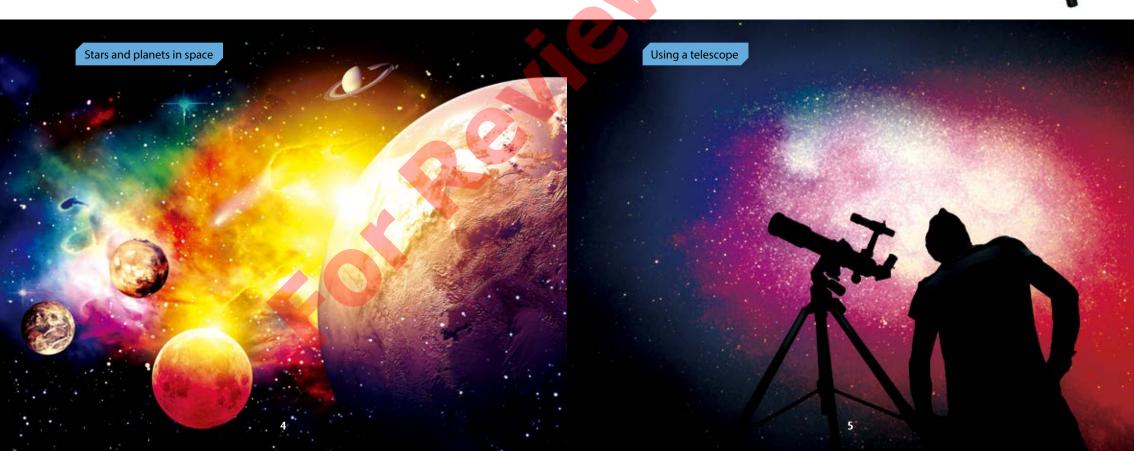


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What Is in Space?

Most people want to know what is in space. There are many galaxies in space. Clouds, planets, and stars make up galaxies. We can see the sun, moon, and stars from Earth. However, we cannot clearly see everything in space from Earth. If you want to see things in space more clearly, you have to use a telescope. Did you know stars are different colors? We can see the many colors of stars with a telescope. However, if we go into space and use a telescope, we can see farther into our galaxy or even outside of it.



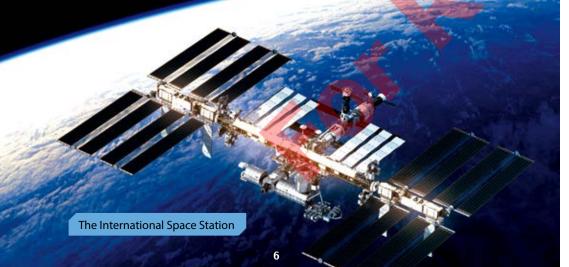


What Does a Space Pilot Do?

A space pilot can go to space. These days, space pilots are called astronauts. They travel to space in a spacecraft. These are the men and women exploring space today.

When astronauts go into space for a long time, they live in the International Space Station. The space station is also a spacecraft. However, it doesn't travel away from Earth. The International Space Station is a home in space for its crew members. It has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a big window.





Astronauts go into space to look at what is there. They study the objects in space. They also do experiments that can help us on Earth. Astronauts have to test the machines inside the space station. They make sure everything is safe in the space station, too.



Taking a spacewalk

Astronauts usually stay in space for six months. However, 879 days is the longest time a person has stayed in space.

Astronauts spend most of their time inside the space station. Sometimes they go outside the space station. Going outside is called "taking a spacewalk." When the astronauts go on spacewalks, they have to wear a spacesuit to protect their bodies. They go on spacewalks to fix things on satellites or test new machines outside the spacecraft. They can also do science experiments on spacewalks. Astronauts have fun, too. They like to watch sunrises and sunsets when they are in space. Sunrises and sunsets happen every 45 minutes while in space! Astronauts also have some time off each week to rest. They exercise to keep their bodies healthy. They play games with other crew members. They watch movies and read books. They spend time talking with their families while in space, too.

Comprehension Questions

If you want to see things more clearly in space, you have to use a . . .
(a) satellite.
(b) telescope.
(c) spacecraft.

(d) galaxy.

- 2. What is the longest time anyone has stayed in space?(a) Six months
 - (b) About one year
 - (c) Over two years
 - (d) None of the above
- 3. What can space pilots study at university?
 - (a) Engineering
 - (b) Physical Science
 - (c) Math
 - (d) All of the above
- 4. Where will space tourists go for training?
 - (a) A spaceport
 - (b) An airport
 - (c) The International Space Station
 - (d) NASA
- 5. How many people can go on SpaceShipTwo?
 - (a) 2
 - (b) 3
 - (c) 8
 - (d) 16



 airline (n.) a company that operates flights across a country or between countries

Glossary



astronaut (n.) a person who works in a spaceship or spacecraft

- **biological science** (n. phr.) the study of living things and their life processes



 crew member (n. phr.) a person who works as part of a team that operates a boat, plane, spacecraft, etc.



• emergency (n.) a serious situation

Key 1. (b) **2.** (c) **3.** (d) **4.** (a) **5.** (c)