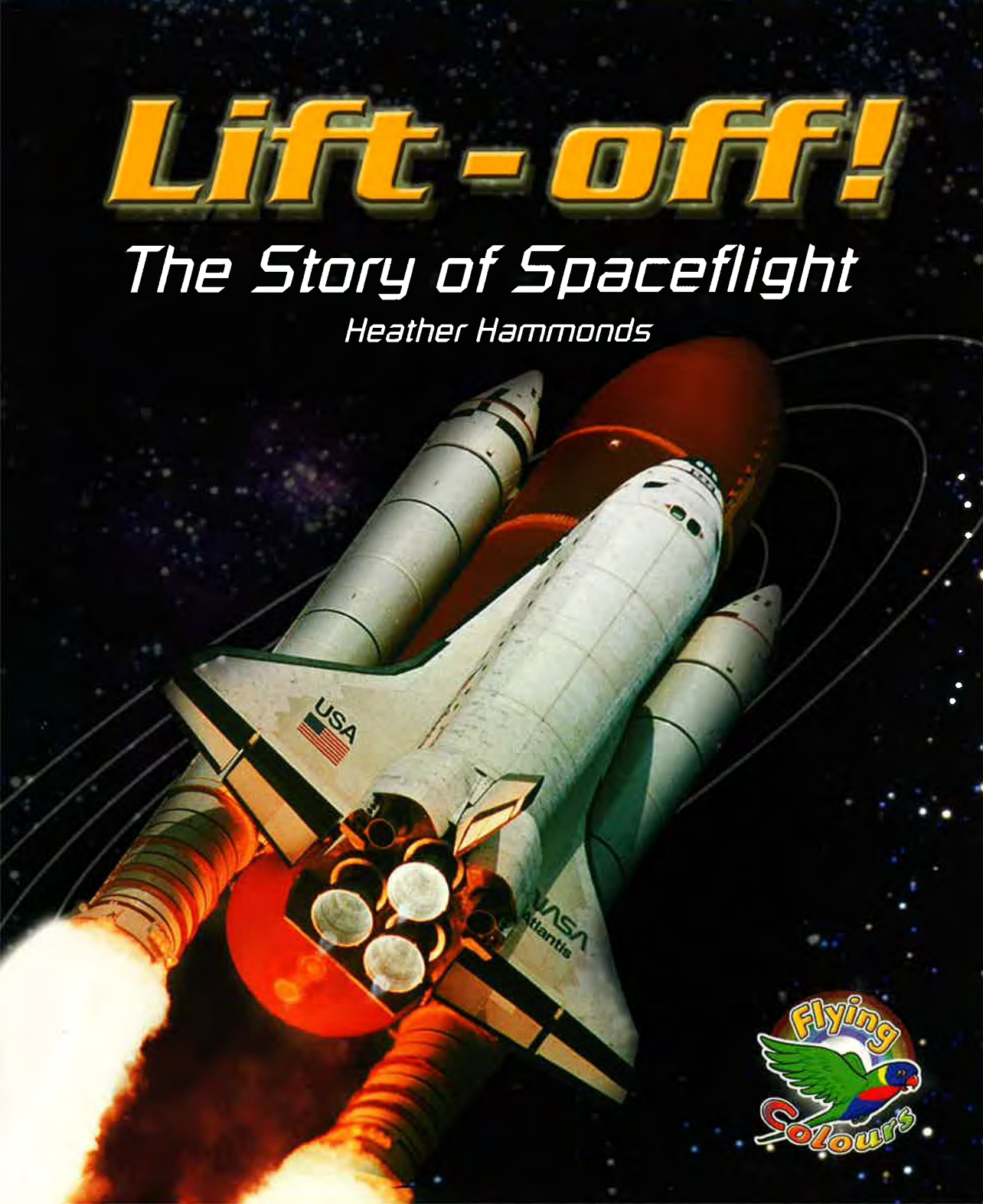
Lift-off!

The Story of Spaceflight

Heather Hammonds



Flying Colours

Lift-Off!

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Chapter 1	Exploring Space	2
Chapter 2	Rocket Power	4
Chapter 3	The First Astronauts	6
Chapter 4	Travel to the Moon	10
Chapter 5	Space Shuttle	14
Chapter 6	The International Space Station	18
Chapter 7	Future Space Travel	20
Chapter 8	Space Travel Timeline	22
Glossary and Index		24

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Chapter 1 Exploring Space

For thousands of years, people have wondered what it would be like to travel into space.

Long ago, people wrote stories and drew pictures about space travel. They imagined what it would be like to fly to other planets.



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Astronomers looked at the planets and stars. They learned a lot about space.

But no one was able to send spacecraft into space. Space travel was just a dream …

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Chapter 2 Rocket Power

Spacecraft are **launched** into space by rockets. In the 1940s, very big rockets were built.

Soon scientists in **Russia** and the **United States of America** built huge rockets that could carry spacecraft into space.



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October, 1957

Scientists in Russia launched the first spacecraft to **orbit** the Earth. It did not carry any astronauts.



January, 1958

Scientists in the United States of America launched a spacecraft that orbited the Earth too.



The first rockets were built by people in China, around 2 000 years ago.

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Chapter 3

The First Astronauts

We cannot live in space.

In space:

- there is no air to breathe
- it is very cold when it is dark
- it is very hot when it is sunny.

The word 'astronaut' means 'star sailor'.



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Animal Astronauts

The first astronauts were animals!

November, 1957

Scientists in Russia sent a dog called **Laika** into space. Laika was the first animal to orbit the Earth. Laika means 'barker' in Russian!

Other animals such as monkeys, cats and mice have also travelled into space.

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