storytime™
PLAY & LEARN
ISSUE 143

STEM TIME: ZOOM AROUND THE MOON

Zoom Around the Moon is a thrilling sci-fi story about a girl named Luna who goes on her first space flight – and has to think quickly when things go wrong! It inspired this pack, which is all about space travel!



LESSON IDEAS THIS MONTH!

1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- The **Storytime Glossary** is a handy reference resource that pupils can use when they encounter a word or phrase in this month's stories that they don't recognise. Encourage them to look up unfamiliar words for themselves. Once a pupil knows what a word means, can they use it in a sentence?

- The subject of this month's **Class Discussion Sheet** is *rockets*! It lists questions that will get your pupils talking about these amazing vehicles: what they are, how they are built, and where they can go! Children should also pick three things they would want to take if they were about to go into space. Ask them why they chose those particular possessions!

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** has an extract from Luna's story. Can children find clues about where the story takes place and spot the simile? There is also an exercise in which pupils have to complete sentences using words that relate to *position*.

- The events of 'Zoom Around the Moon' have been jumbled up on the **Story Sequencing Sheet**, and it's up to your pupils to put them back in the right order. The sections should be numbered from 1-11 to match the order they should be in. Children should feel free to refer back to the original story to check things.

- The **Countdown Story Starters** page has three prompts that will help pupils to begin writing their own exciting space adventure – one involves problem-solving, one is humorous, and the other is meant to evoke wonder and exploration. Children should write a sentence or two for each prompt... and then choose one to continue writing into a full-page tale.

- For the **Space News!** exercise, students have to write a news story about Luna and MIL-0's adventure. It needs a catchy headline at the top to attract readers' attention, a byline (which says who the story is by) and the story itself. The story should cover the five Ws of news writing: *who, what, when, where* and *why*.

Continued on page 2...

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2. HISTORY LESSON IDEA

- Humanity has been exploring space for many decades, and the **Space Mission Timeline!** sheet lists some of the most important and ground-breaking missions that we have undertaken. Which ones have pupils heard of, and which missions do they think were the most important and interesting? Can they research other space missions and write a report for the class about them?

3. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- A space mission involves more than just astronauts! It takes thousands of engineers, scientists and other experts to plan the mission and design and build vehicles and equipment, and specialists of all kinds to manage things behind the scenes. **The Right Stuff** is a sheet with four question prompts that encourage pupils to think like an astronaut, an engineer, a scientist and a mission control commander. They should think about the duties of each person and the kinds of problems they might have to solve.

- Over the past seventy years, we have sent countless missions into space. Some have involved launching crewed spacecraft, while others sent up satellites or robotic probes. The **Objects in Space** page lists ten different things that we have put into orbit. Students should talk about what each of these things is designed to do, and where it is meant to go.

- Spacecraft are among the most powerful, complex and impressive vehicles ever built by humans, and they are made up of lots of parts that serve different functions. The **Building a Rocket!** page has a list of ten different components and ten questions about what different components do. Can your pupils match the right component with each question? Also, pupils should refer back to this page when drawing their own rocket for the art activity in this pack. They should try to include all of the components in their own design.

Continued on page 3...

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4. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- Planning a space mission involves a lot of calculations! Experts have to figure out how heavy a spacecraft is, how much fuel they need, and which courses they should follow through space (which involves dealing with things like gravity, acceleration and momentum). The **Mission Control Maths** page has four space-related problems for students to solve that will get them thinking like an astronaut!

  One of the amazing mathematicians who figured out complex problems for NASA space missions was Katherine Johnson. Pupils can read about her childhood in the story 'Katherine Counts', from Storytime issue 125.

5. ART LESSON IDEA

- Pupils can use their imagination and what they learned in this pack to draw their own spacecraft on the **Complete the Rocket!** page. The nose cone and rocket vents are already drawn on the sheet, but they can add everything in between. Children can refer back to the **Building a Rocket!** page to get ideas about the parts they should include. If they feel especially inspired, they could try doing a 'cutaway' picture of their spacecraft which shows the inside of some parts of the vehicle!

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

Look up any words you don't know in this handy reference guide!

The Impossible Prize! (Page 6)

- **Excellence:** being extremely good at something
- **Opinion:** what someone thinks or believes
- **Sprained:** hurt by twisting a joint
- **Deserve:** to have earned something because of what you have done
- **Fencepost:** post that helps hold up a fence
- **Moorhen:** small bird that lives near ponds, lakes and marshes
- **Chatting:** talking in a casual way
- **Hitch a ride:** to travel by getting a lift with someone else
- **Feat:** something that is difficult to do
- **Ashamed:** feeling bad or sorry because you think you have done something wrong

Zoom Around the Moon (Page 10)

- **Space station:** large spacecraft where people can live and work in space
- **In zero gravity:** in a place where people and objects seem to float because they are in free fall
- **Pilot:** control a vehicle
- **Cockpit:** place in vehicle where pilot sits
- **Rocket boosters:** powerful rockets that help a spacecraft move
- **Asteroid:** rocky object in space
- **Orbit:** path an object follows as it travels around a planet or moon
- **Slingshot:** using the gravity of a planet or moon to change direction and speed while travelling through space

Merlin's Marvellous Bed (Page 16)

- **Magician:** person who performs magic or casts spells
- **Spellbooks:** books that has magical spells written inside
- **Transformed:** changed into something different
- **Definitely:** certainly; without any doubt
- **Shaggy:** covered with long, messy fur
- **Slithery:** able to move smoothly by sliding along the ground like a snake
- **Mattress:** soft part of bed that you sleep on
- **Lumpy:** full of bumps; not smooth
- **Hammock:** hanging bed made from strong fabric or netting
- **Wardrobe:** big cupboard for storing clothes
- **Dozing off:** falling into a light sleep

The Busiest Builders! (Page 18)

- **Engineers:** people who design and build things like bridges, roads and dams
- **Ecosystem:** community of living things and the place where they live
- **Scenery:** the natural view or landscape in a place
- **Accountant:** someone whose job is to manage money and finances
- **Channel:** narrow path water flows through
- **Lodge:** beaver's home
- **Vegetarian:** someone or something that does not eat meat or fish
- **Habitat:** natural home of a plant or animal
- **Wetlands:** lands covered with water

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

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The Bird of Peace (Page 23)

- **Ancient:** from a long time ago
- **Palaces:** grand homes where rulers live
- **Taunt:** to say unkind things to make someone feel upset or angry
- **Summoned:** called people to come
- **Generals:** leaders who command armies
- **Armoury:** place where weapons and armour are stored
- **Weapons:** objects used for fighting
- **Nestled:** settled in a safe place
- **Glistened:** shone with a sparkling light
- **Legions:** large groups of soldiers
- **Dismounted:** climbed down from a horse
- **Sombre:** serious and sad in mood
- **Quarrel:** angry argument
- **Symbol:** something that stands for or represents an idea

The Boys from Liverpool (Page 30)

- **Quiff:** hairstyle where the front of the hair is brushed upwards
- **Reflection:** image seen in a mirror
- **Fête:** outdoor fair or community celebration
- **Heatwave:** a long period of very hot weather
- **Banner:** large sign or flag made of cloth
- **Rhythm:** regular beat in music
- **Melody:** the tune of a song
- **Lyrics:** the words of a song
- **Sniggered:** laughed in an unkind way
- **Chords:** musical notes played together

The Golden Plait (Page 36)

- **Plait:** braid made by weaving three or more strands of hair together
- **Veranda:** covered outdoor area attached to a house
- **Scowled:** frowned in an angry way
- **Cobblers:** people who make or fix shoes
- **Sari:** long piece of cloth worn as traditional clothing in India
- **Porcelain:** kind of pottery
- **Possessions:** things that someone owns
- **Invisibility:** the state of not being able to be seen
- **Prickling:** tingling or slightly sore feeling
- **Breathtaking:** so beautiful or exciting that it makes you stop and look
- **Envy:** feeling of wanting something that someone else has

The Town Beneath the Lake (Page 42)

- **Merchants:** people who buy and sell things
- **Hymns:** songs of praise sung in church
- **Accordions:** musical instruments that are played by squeezing them
- **Mesmerised:** fascinated and unable to look away
- **Ripple:** small wave on surface of water
- **Tinkling:** making a light ringing sound
- **Pearls:** smooth, shiny jewels that form inside some shellfish
- **Homesick:** feeling sad and lonely from being away from home

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Rockets! Just like heroes, rockets come in all shapes and sizes. But every rocket – big or small – needs a team to design, build and launch it!

1. What do you think a rocket needs to escape Earth and reach space? Why?

2. Why does it take a whole team to launch a rocket? Is it a big job?

3. Where do you think a rocket might travel to? What do you think it might find when it gets there?

4. What do you think would be the most difficult or dangerous part of being an astronaut on a rocket launch — and the most exciting part?

READY FOR SPACE TRAVEL!

If you had to pack only three things for a journey to space, what would they be? Write what they are or draw them here!

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Find the clues in this extract to answer the questions below!

Luna bounced out of bed as soon as her alarm went off. Today was the big day! She floated over to the window and looked out. Stars shone in the blackness of space.

Far below the space station, she could see the planet Earth. It looked like a big blue and green marble covered with swirly white clouds.

Luna zipped up her suit. She'd put a new 'SPACE ACE' patch onto it!

1. Which words tell us *when* Luna bounced out of bed?

2. Which two clues in the first paragraph tell us that Luna might not be on Earth?

3. A simile is used to describe something by comparing it to something else. What is the simile in the extract?

4. What are the two proper nouns in this extract? They begin with capital letters!

WHERE ARE THEY?

Which word would you use to complete each of these sentences? The word should say where the subject of the sentence is.

The bird flies _____ the city!

The fish swims _____ the sea!

The house is _____ the road!

The bridge goes _____ the river!

ANSWERS: 1: *as soon as her alarm went off.* 2. She floats and there are stars outside. 3. *Like a big blue and green marble.* 4. *Luna* and *Earth.*
Where Are They?: *Above, in, beside, over.*

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

A reporter has written about Luna's adventure – but the events are in the wrong order. Number the sections in the order in which they should be read!

Luna and MIL-0 climbed aboard the pod. The robot told her to obey his instructions and said that they would be flying around the Moon. ☐

Her mum said goodbye as she went out of the door. Luna felt nervous as she took the lift to the space dock! ☐

When the pod had orbited the Moon and was pointed back at Earth, Luna hit the pod's boosters. It accelerated out of orbit! ☐

MIL-0 calmed down and agreed with her. They flew on until they went into orbit around the Moon, and Luna saw its rocky surface. ☐

When MIL-0 told her to, Luna took the controls and launched the pod. She began piloting it towards the distant Moon. ☐

The robot told her to turn around, but Luna said that they would use less fuel if they continued to the Moon and used its gravity to turn. ☐

MIL-0 told a robo-news reporter that it had been Luna's bright idea to use the Moon's gravity to 'slingshot' back to base! ☐

Luna got out of bed as soon as her alarm went off. She put on her jumpsuit, which had a SPACE ACE patch on the shoulder. ☐

Suddenly there was a BANG! Something had damaged the pod. MIL-0 panicked and said they were losing fuel. ☐

The damaged spacecraft made it back to the space station, where Luna and MIL-0 got a hero's welcome. Luna even got a new patch! ☐

When she arrived at the space dock, a robot called MIL-0 asked her for her name and took her to a small space pod for her piloting test. ☐

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COUNTDOWN STORY STARTERS

Complete the first paragraph of each of these stories... where will you take it? Then, choose one story to keep writing and continue it on a new page!

1 The Rescue Mission (Problem-solving)

10... 9... 8... the engine rumbled beneath their feet. Commander Yara gripped the controls. Somewhere out there, astronauts were stranded in space, and she was the only one who could help. _____

_____

_____

2 The Unexpected Passenger (Humour)

10... 9... 8... the engine rumbled and the whole rocket shook. Mission Control fell silent. Then, from inside the supply bag, came a sound nobody expected... how on Earth had this creature got onto a spacecraft? _____

_____

_____

3 The First Child in Space (Wonder and discovery)

10... 9... 8... the engine rumbled and the kid pressed their nose to the small oval window. Below, the fields, the roads, the school – everything was getting smaller. Being the first child ever to reach the stars was going to be awesome._____

_____

_____

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SPACE NEWS!



Headline: _____

By: _____

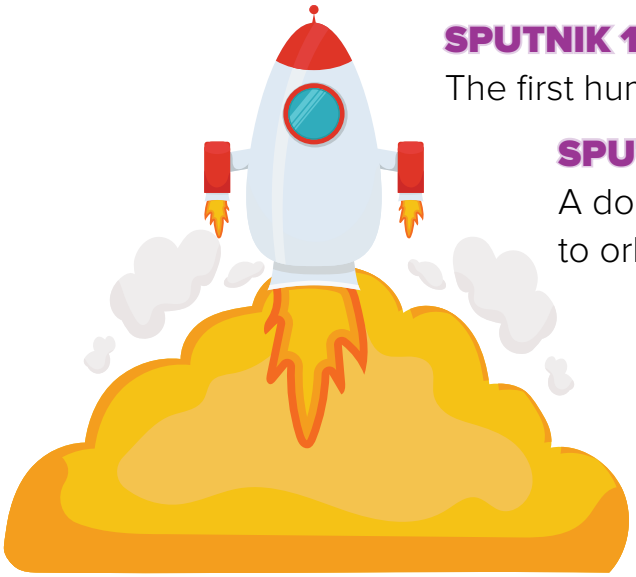
The news story: _____

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SPACE MISSIONS TIMELINE!

Here are some amazing real-life space missions that you should know about! Which one do you find most fascinating?



SPUTNIK 1: Soviet Union 1957
The first human-made satellite is launched into orbit.

SPUTNIK 2: Soviet Union 1957
A dog called Laika becomes the first creature to orbit the Earth!

VOSTOK 1: Soviet Union 1961
Yuri Gagarin becomes the first human in space!

APOLLO 11: USA 1969
Neil Armstrong becomes the first person to walk on the Moon.

VENERA 7: Soviet Union 1970
First probe to land safely on another planet (Venus). However, it soon stopped working because of the extreme conditions in the planet's atmosphere.

SOYUZ TM-12: Soviet Union 1991
Scientist Helen Sharman becomes the first Briton in space, carrying out experiments on the Mir space station.

SOYUZ TM-18: Russia 1994
Valeri Polyakov travels to the Mir space station. He stays for 14 months, the longest time a human being has stayed in space.

ARTEMIS II: USA 2026
The first crewed spaceflight around the Moon since 1972. It carried four astronauts!

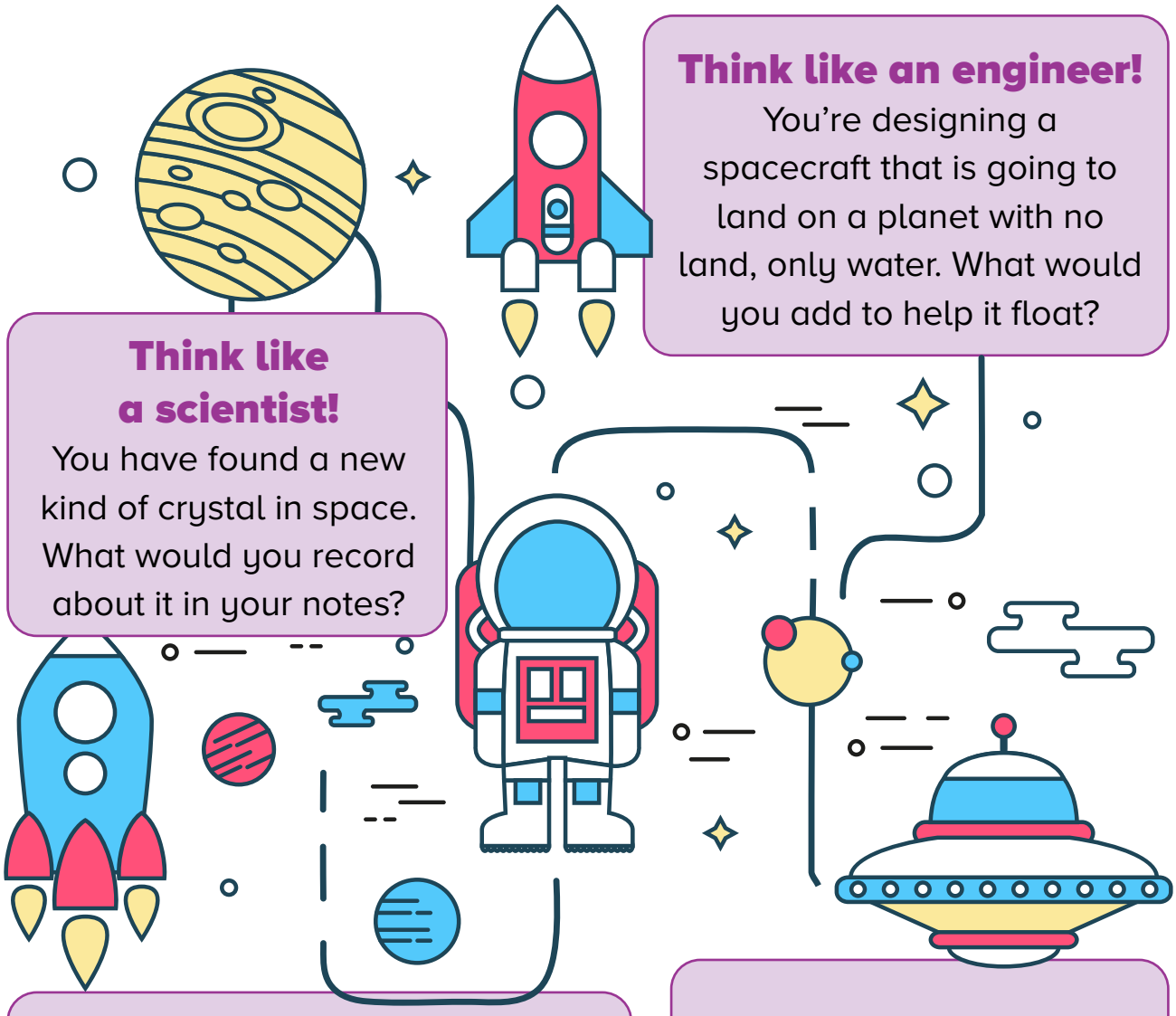
THE SPACE RACE!

During the 1950s and '60s, the USA and the Soviet Union were in a fierce competition called the 'Space Race', with each trying to prove that it had the best technology.. They poured huge amounts of money and effort into space travel. Today, more countries are sending astronauts into space too, and the club of space-faring nations keeps growing!

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THE RIGHT STUFF

Imagine what it would be like to be in the four situations below. Discuss what you would do in small groups and then share your thoughts with the class.



Think like an engineer!

You're designing a spacecraft that is going to land on a planet with no land, only water. What would you add to help it float?

Think like a scientist!

You have found a new kind of crystal in space. What would you record about it in your notes?

Think like an astronaut!

You are heading to an alien planet! What are five things you would do when you land on the surface?

Think like a Mission Control commander!

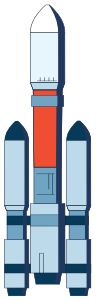
Three spacecraft are heading to the Moon, but one has a problem and its engine stops working. What would you tell the other spacecraft to do?

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OBJECTS IN SPACE

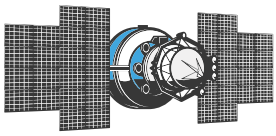
We humans have been exploring space for more than seventy years... here are just some of the human-made objects that have been sent into orbit!

1. Rocket



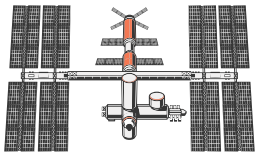
The mighty vehicle that launches everything into space. Rockets burn enormous amounts of fuel to create enough thrust to escape Earth's gravity. Many rockets shed their boosters on the way up and only the spacecraft or payload reaches orbit.

2. Satellite



A machine that orbits Earth and does a job — like sending TV signals, tracking weather, or helping your phone find directions with GPS. There are thousands of satellites circling Earth right now. Some are the size of a fridge, while others are as big as a bus.

3. Space Station



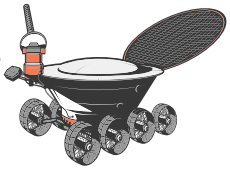
A laboratory floating in orbit where astronauts live and work for months at a time. The International Space Station (ISS) is as long as a football pitch and travels at 28,000 km/h – fast enough to orbit the Earth sixteen times a day.

4. Space Capsule



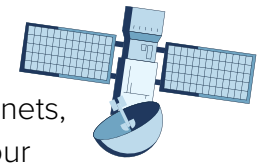
The small pod that carries the crew. It sits near the top of the rocket, survives the heat of re-entry and returns the crew safely to Earth. Apollo 13's capsule was barely bigger than a car but three astronauts lived inside it.

5. Rover



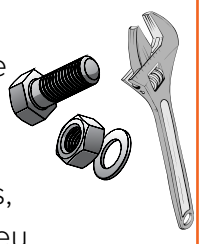
A remotely-operated vehicle built to explore the surface of another planet. Rovers crawl slowly across Mars, taking photographs, drilling into rocks and sending data back to scientists on Earth.

6. Space Probe



An uncrewed spacecraft sent to explore distant planets, moons and the edges of our solar system. Most space probes are not designed to return to Earth. Voyager 1, launched in 1977, is now the most distant human-made object in the universe.

7. Space Junk!



Unfortunately, we humans have been polluting space as well as our planet! You can find old satellites, booster rockets, bolts, bits of paint and even tools. They are a hazard for space travellers!

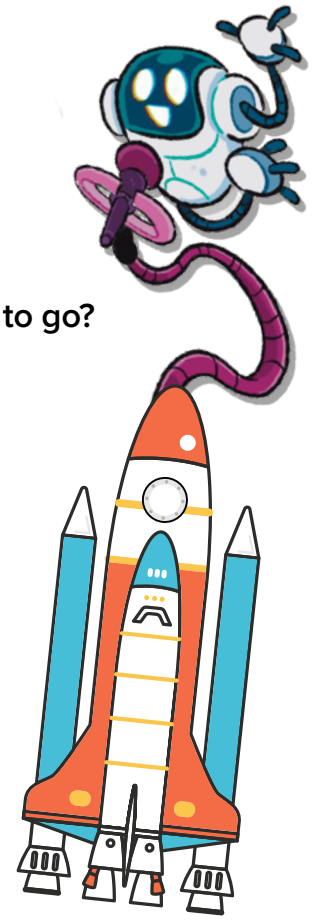
8. Spacesuit



It is like a one-person spacecraft! It provides oxygen, regulates temperature and protects against radiation and temperatures between -160°C and +120°C. Without it, a human could not survive outside the capsule.

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BUILDING A ROCKET!



A spacecraft is made up of lots of different components. Which of the parts listed below does each of these jobs?

- ☐ What will help the astronauts work out where they are and where to go?
- ☐ Where is the fuel for the thrusters stored?
- ☐ What will the crew use to talk to Earth and space stations?
- ☐ What will provide air for the crew to breathe?
- ☐ What will help the spacecraft move and turn in space?
- ☐ What will provide power for the spaceship?
- ☐ What will the crew use to get in and out of the spacecraft?
- ☐ What will boost the spacecraft into orbit?
- ☐ What will help the spaceship get safely back to Earth?
- ☐ What will protect the astronauts from the cold, radiation and vacuum of space?

A. Crew Module: a sealed pod that houses and protects the astronauts

B. Booster Rocket: a large rocket strapped to the spacecraft that will help launch it into space.

C. Life Support System: heats and cools the crew module, provides oxygen and cleans carbon dioxide from the air.

D. Thrusters: rockets or gas nozzles that move the spacecraft.

E. Airlock: an airtight door in the crew module.

F. Solar Panels: create electricity to run the craft's computers, life support systems and other equipment.

G. Fuel Tank: holds the fuel and oxidiser needed by the rocket engines.

H. Navigation System: computers and sensors that help the astronauts guide the spacecraft.

I. Transceiver: device that sends and receives radio waves for communication.

J. Parachutes: slow the capsule down when it enters Earth's atmosphere.

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ANSWERS: H, G, I, C, D, F, E, B, J, A.

MISSION CONTROL MATHS

You are on the ground crew. The astronauts are counting on *you* to get the numbers right. Can you solve these mission problems?

The Oxygen Supply

For this mission, each astronaut uses **3 oxygen tanks** per week. There are **6 astronauts** on board and the mission lasts **4 weeks**. **How many oxygen tanks do they need**

The Distance Log

On Monday the spacecraft travelled **12,450 km**. On Tuesday it travelled **9,780 km**. On Wednesday, it only travelled **3,200 km**. **How far did the spacecraft travel altogether across the three days?**

The Crew Count

The space station has **8 astronauts** on board. A rocket arrives bringing **3 more**. Then **4 astronauts** get on the capsule and head to Earth. **How many astronauts are left on the space station?**

The Food Ration

Mission Control has packed **50 food pouches** for the journey. There are **6 astronauts** on board and the mission lasts **8 days**. **If you give each astronaut one pouch per day, how many pouches will be left over?**

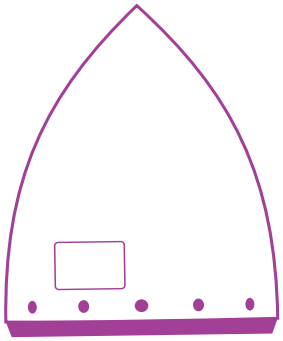
ANSWERS: The Oxygen Supply: you will need at least 72 oxygen tanks. The Distance Log: the spacecraft would travel 25,430 km. The Crew Count: 7. The Food Ration: there is enough food for all the astronauts to have one pouch per day, with two left over.

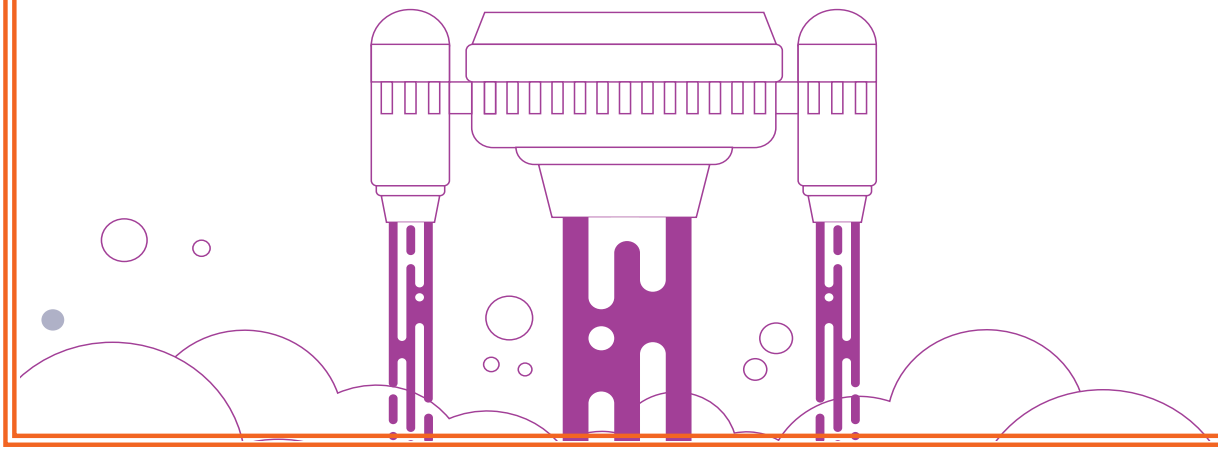
Take more than you need! Spacecraft usually carry extra oxygen, food, fuel and other supplies, because you never know what will go wrong in space!

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COMPLETE THE ROCKET!





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