

WHAT IS AN ASTRONAUT?



An astronaut is a person who travels in space. The job of an astronaut is very difficult, and requires an astronaut to go through years of training before traveling in space. Astronauts must study for many years. Most astronauts study to become scientists, engineers, or doctors before becoming astronauts.

All astronauts must be able to take care of the spacecraft during a space mission. They also conduct experiments, launch satellites, and take space walks outside of the spacecraft. Some astronauts also pilot, or drive, the spacecraft. The astronauts who become spacecraft pilots were usually test pilots in the United States Air Force, Navy, or Marine Corps before they became astronauts.

Astronauts work very hard to help us learn about important subjects. They have provided us with much of the information we know about our solar system. Astronauts in the United States work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, or NASA.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the purpose of this passage?
 - a. to persuade
 - b. to inform
 - c. to entertain
 - d. none of these

2. Which of the following IS true?
 - a. All astronauts study to become engineers.
 - b. Most astronauts are afraid of flying.
 - c. The job of an astronaut is a difficult one.
 - d. All astronauts are pilots.

NAME _____ DATE _____

3. What does NASA mean?
 - a. National Astronauts Space Association
 - b. National American Space Astronauts
 - c. National Association Spacecraft Administration
 - d. National Aeronautics and Space Administration

4. Which of the following would be a good title for this passage?
 - a. Adam the Astronaut Travels in Space
 - b. All About the Solar System
 - c. Learning to be an Astronaut Is Fun
 - d. All About Astronauts

5. Astronauts are able to do all of the following EXCEPT _____.
 - a. take space walks outside of the spacecraft
 - b. conduct experiments
 - c. build a spacecraft
 - d. launch satellites

6. Would you like to become an astronaut? _____
Explain your answer. _____

NAME _____ DATE _____

Answers

1. b
2. c
3. d
4. d
5. c
6. discussion question