

- An astronaut is what Western countries, like the UK and America, call a person who goes into outer space. The word 'astronaut' comes from the Greek words *astron*, meaning 'star', and *nautes*, meaning 'sailor'. The Soviet Union used the word *cosmonaut*. Astronauts are called '*taikonauts*' in China or '*spationaute*' in France.



- The first living thing sent into space was a stray dog called Laika, chosen and trained by Russia to see how the journey might affect a person. Other animals to go into space include Ham the Chimp, and Gordo the Monkey.
- Yuri Gagarin, from the Soviet Union, was the first human to travel into space. His flight took place on April 12 1961, on-board the spacecraft Vostok 1.
- Neil Armstrong, an astronaut from the United States, became the first person ever to walk on the moon. His famous moon walk happened on July 20 1969. He travelled on Apollo 11, where the on-board computer was less powerful than a modern smart-phone.
- An astronaut can be up to two inches taller after returning from space because their spine expands in zero gravity.
- Astronauts see a sunrise every 90 minutes. An astronaut's clock still runs to a 24-hour day - they work from 9am until 5pm to keep their days ordered.
- Astronauts can be quite clumsy when they come back down to Earth. Several astronauts have reported that when they come home they find they drop objects like cups. This is because they're used to living in zero gravity and the weightless environment in space.

1. Which bullet point tells you about the first person in space?
2. How do you know that humans were not the first living thing in space?
3. What fact has the author written about Neil Armstrong and Apollo 11 that makes his mission sound even more incredible?
4. Read and summarise this text in one word.
5. Re-read this text and summarise it in one sentence.
6. How do you know that this is a non-fiction text?
7. Why are titles important for the reader?
8. Use your summaries to help you write a title that would grab the reader.
9. Would you add anything next to the photo? Explain why.
10. Write three questions for someone at home to answer after they have read the text. For example: Who was the first person on the moon?

The ISS orbits the Earth at about 17,000 mph. Find three more facts about the International Space Station (ISS).