



# Working in SPACE



by Ellen Lawrence

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# Time for Work!

An astronaut on the International Space Station (ISS) puts on a spacesuit.

He grabs some tools and clips on ropelike safety tethers.

A door opens, leading to the blackness of space.

It's time for the astronaut to go on a space walk!



an astronaut getting ready for a space walk





Astronauts perform space walks to make repairs to the space station or to set up new equipment.

safety tethers

Why do you think astronauts connect themselves to the ISS with safety tethers during a space walk?

(The answer is on page 24.)



# A Flying Laboratory

The ISS is a big **laboratory** that's **orbiting** the Earth.

Onboard, a crew of six astronauts performs science experiments.

The space station has three main laboratory areas, or modules.

Each module is about the size of a school bus.

At any time, the crew may be working on 150 different experiments!

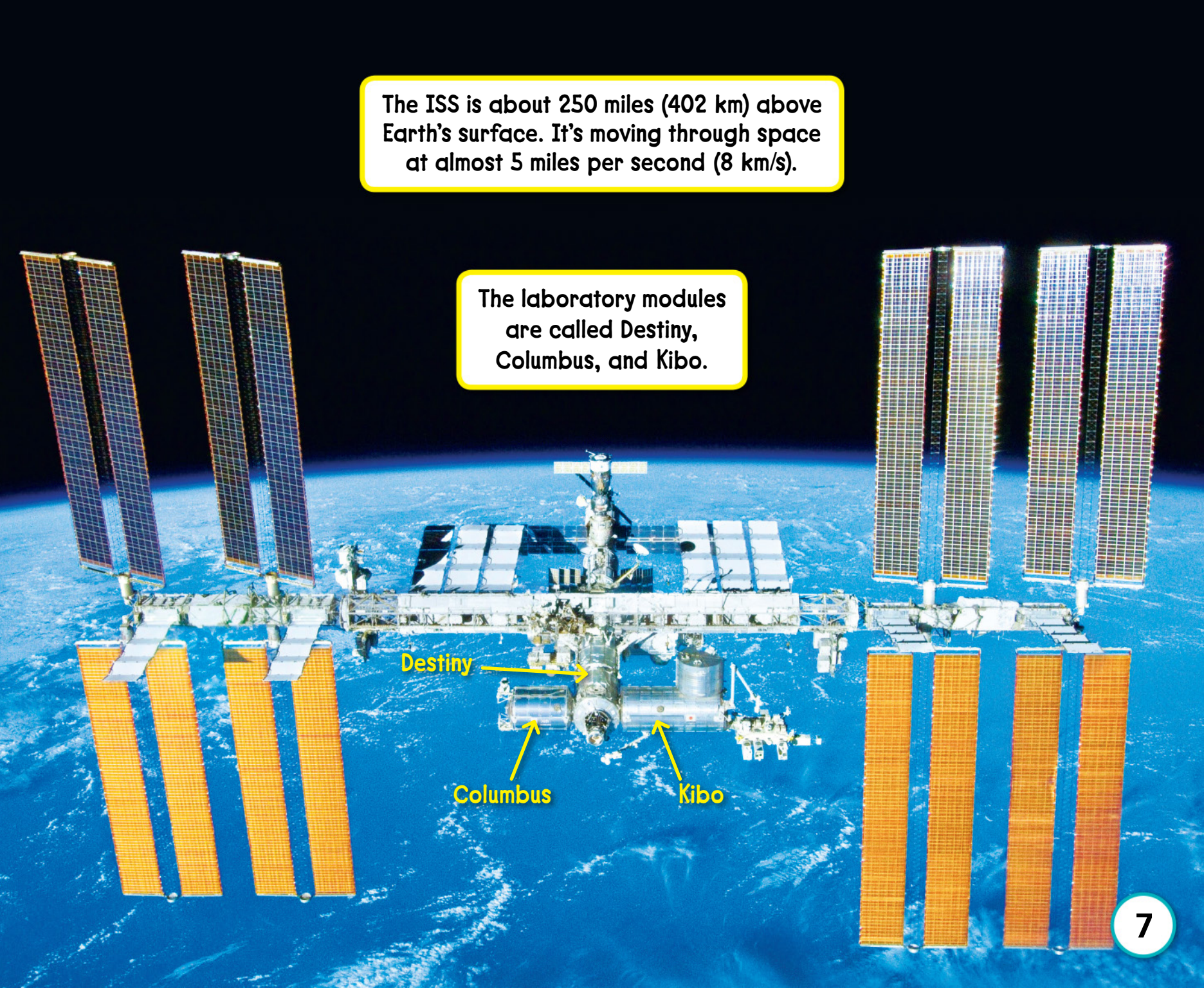


On Earth,  
everything is pulled  
toward the ground  
by gravity. In space,  
everything is weightless.  
As they work, the  
astronauts are  
floating!



The ISS is about 250 miles (402 km) above Earth's surface. It's moving through space at almost 5 miles per second (8 km/s).

The laboratory modules are called Destiny, Columbus, and Kibo.



Destiny

Columbus

Kibo