



Space-ology

Becoming an ASTRONAUT

by Ellen Lawrence

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Becoming an ASTRONAUT

by Ellen Lawrence

Consultant:
Josh Barker

Space Communications Team
National Space Centre
Leicester, United Kingdom

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Danger!

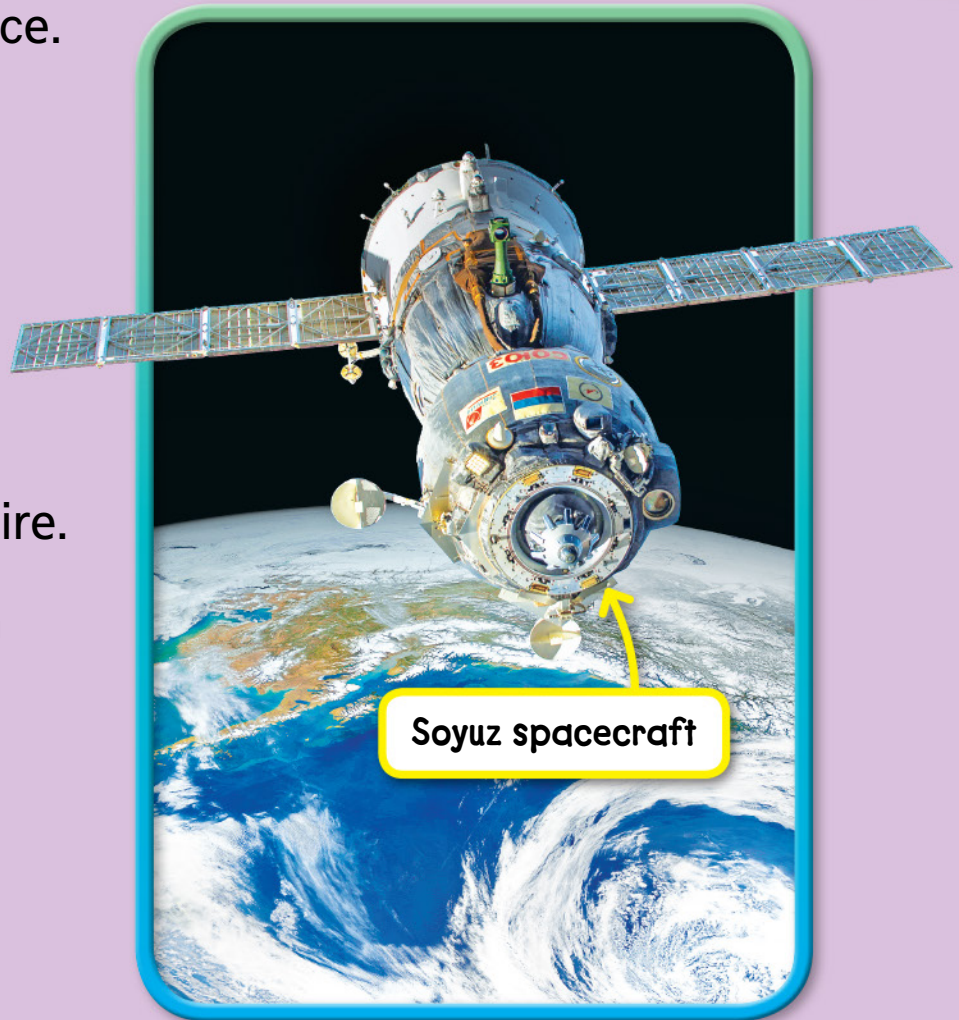
A spacecraft hurtles through space.


Suddenly, lights flash and alarms ring as smoke fills the **cockpit**.

The astronauts inside have just seconds to decide what to do.

Thankfully, the spacecraft is a simulator and is not actually on fire.

The astronauts are taking part in a training exercise on Earth!



A photograph of two astronauts in a spacecraft simulator. They are wearing white space suits with blue stripes and are seated in a cockpit-like environment. The astronaut in the foreground is looking down at a document, while the one in the background is also looking at a document. The cockpit is filled with various instruments, including two large digital displays showing green and blue data, numerous buttons, and control panels. The overall atmosphere is technical and professional.

A simulator
is a model of a
spacecraft that feels
like the real thing.
Simulators are
used to train
astronauts.

astronauts in
a simulator

Not everybody can be an
astronaut. What kind of
person do you think could
do this difficult job?

Astronauts Wanted

Only people with special skills can become astronauts.

Many have worked as pilots, scientists, or **engineers**.

First, they apply to a space agency such as NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration).

If they are chosen, they will train to work on the International Space Station (ISS) or for other space missions!


International Space Station (ISS)



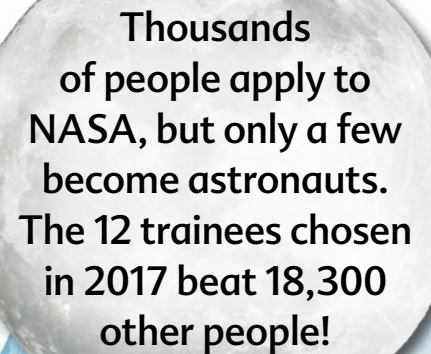
ASTRONAUT CHECKLIST

An astronaut must:

- ✓ Be in great health
- ✓ Have excellent eyesight
- ✓ Be good at math and science
- ✓ Have a good memory
- ✓ Be calm in difficult or scary situations
- ✓ Be unafraid of heights and small cramped spaces



NASA's 2017
trainee astronauts
take a selfie.



Thousands
of people apply to
NASA, but only a few
become astronauts.
The 12 trainees chosen
in 2017 beat 18,300
other people!