





Talk About It

What draws people to want to explore space?
Why should we continue to explore space?



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JOBS in SPACE

Vocabulary

mission	gravity
disasters	maze
environment	adjusted
zone	function

Context Clues

Descriptions or explanations can be **Context Clues** that will help you figure out the meaning of unfamiliar words. Sometimes you can find these clues if you keep reading until the end of a sentence or paragraph.

by Latasha Pearson

In the early years of space travel, an astronaut's job was to pilot a spacecraft. Astronauts of today do many other types of jobs. These jobs change depending on the goal of the **mission** that needs to be accomplished.

Astronaut Pilots control and direct the space shuttle. One astronaut pilot is the captain. Captains must make sure the mission is a success. Their job is to keep the crew safe. Captains know that working as a team can prevent **disasters** in space.

Mission Specialists run tests and take care of the equipment on board. The equipment may need to be **adjusted** to fit the task. Sometimes they walk in space or handle the shuttle's robot arm. Astronaut pilots and mission specialists



work for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). They learn to live and work in an unusual **environment**. They learn to move in a special **zone** where there is zero **gravity**, the force that pulls things back to Earth. They also figure out how to operate the confusing **maze** of equipment that fills the space shuttle.

Payload Specialists do not work for NASA. These crew members have specific skills and are usually

in charge of special projects. They train with the astronauts. Like everyone else getting settled on the shuttle, these specialists have to get used to life in space.

Educator Astronauts are teachers who travel into space. Their job is to encourage students to study science and math. This will help the next generation of astronauts **function** well in space and carry out their jobs successfully.

Reread for Comprehension

Generate Questions Summarize

A Summary Chart helps you ask questions about the main ideas in a selection. Use your Summary Chart as you reread “Jobs in Space” to summarize the main ideas.

