

Summary

The International Space Station is a base for astronauts who live and work in space for up to six months. This book examines the challenges of living in this unusual environment.

Features of the Text

- Explanation
- Captioned photographs
- Contents page, glossary, index
- Labeled diagrams

Purpose

Space Station can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- S** asking questions to deepen understanding;
- S** finding information in photographs;
- S** identifying the problems and solutions in a text.

The Guided Reading Lesson

- S** Asking questions to deepen understanding
- S** Finding information in photographs

Introducing the text

Look at the cover of the book and encourage the students to share what they know about space exploration.

- What is a space station used for?
- Why do you think the International Space Station is so large?
- Who might the people in the photograph be?

Ask the students to look at the contents page. Encourage them to think of questions they have about the space station. Write them on the board.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 87 to record the problems faced by the astronauts on the space station and their solutions
- imagine they are an astronaut and write an email to their family on Earth, describing life on the space station
- write a newspaper article about the history and purpose of the space station.

Reading and discussing the text

Remind the students that photographs and captions provide extra information that supports the text. Then ask them to read the introduction on pages 2 to 4.

- *What challenges would the astronauts face?*
- *Why are new modules being added to the space station?*
- *How do you think they are added?*

Discuss the purpose of the different modules.

Ask the students to read page 5.

- *Why do you think so many countries are involved with the International Space Station?*

The students can now read pages 6 to 9.

- *What are the positive and negative things about living on the space station?*
- *How is life on the space station different from life on Earth?*

Ask the students to read pages 10 and 11 and to think about the challenges of eating in zero gravity.

Discuss the recycling diagram on page 13.

- *How is the wastewater on the space station recycled differently from the wastewater on Earth? Why?*

The students can now read to the end of the book. Discuss the ways in which the photographs and their captions support the text.

- *What extra information do the photographs and captions give?*
- *What do the photographs tell you about the astronauts' attitudes and feelings?*

Encourage the students to support their answers with evidence from the text.

Review the questions that were listed on the board and discuss which ones were answered.

