Theme: Space (Astronauts



Read about how to become an astronaut. Fill in the words below.

People must study and work for many years before they can even begin to train to be an astronaut. They go to college to study science, medicine or engineering. Many also learn how to be pilots for their country's air force. Most astronauts are between 27 and 37 years old when they start their training. They learn what space feels like on a special training aeroplane. The aeroplane drops down through the sky at a very fast speed for 30 seconds. It can make the astronauts feel sick, so they have nicknamed it 'the vomit comet'l In a real spaceship, astronauts feel sick for only the first few days.

Astronauts from around the world work on the International Space Station. They talk to one another in English and Russian. They need to be good at getting on with people as they live and work so close together.

Astronauts must be very fit and healthy. Working in space is a lot like working in water. As part of their training, therefore, astronauts swim in a large pool wearing their spacesuit and running shoes.

There are lots of different jobs in space. Some astronauts are pilots, some do experiments and some are space walkers. Space walkers go outside the Space Station to check that everything is working.

