



Space-ology

# Becoming an ASTRONAUT

by Ellen Lawrence

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# Danger!

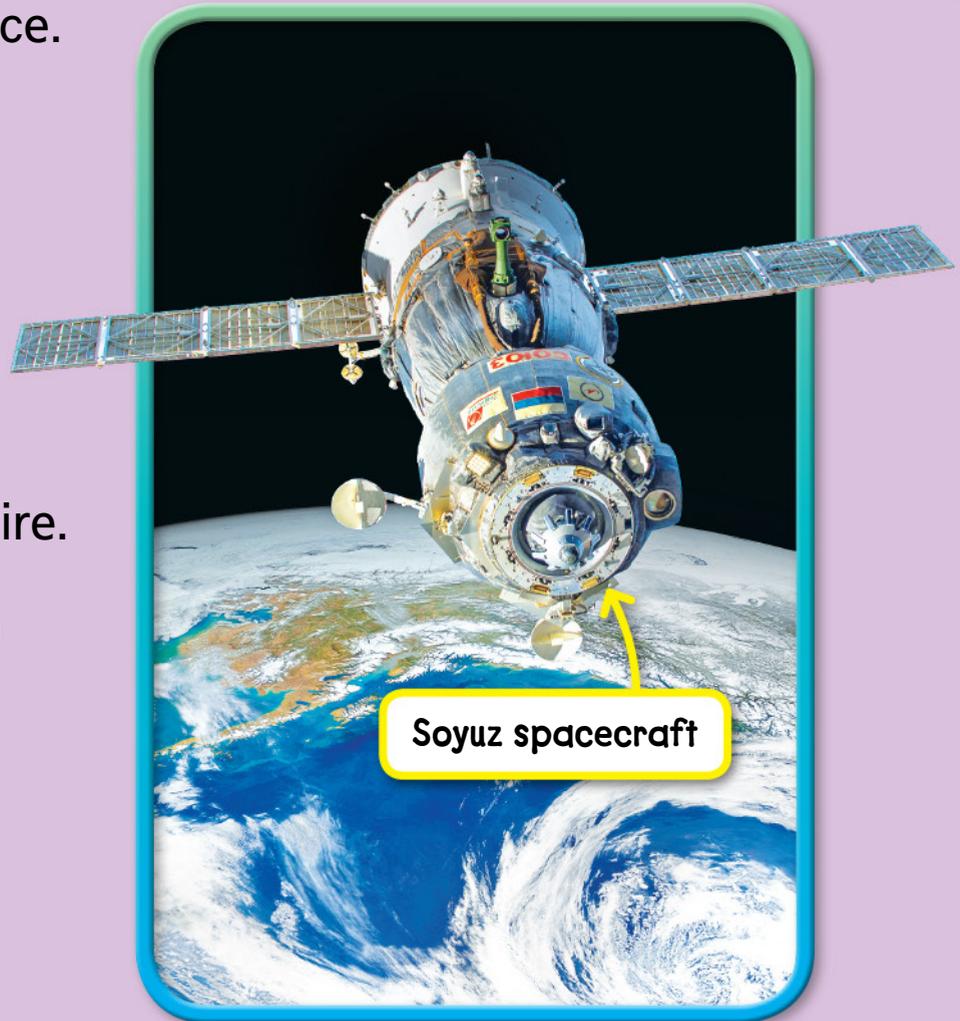
A spacecraft hurtles through space.

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 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!