

Unit 4 Space Exploration

Reading and Thinking

SPACE: The Final Frontier





**Yuri Gagarin,
the Soviet Union**

the first man to travel
into space in 1961

astronaut

pioneer



**Neil Armstrong,
the US**

the first person to
walk on the moon in
1969

***When you are looking up at the universe,
are you curious about the unknown universe?
Are you feel lonely and down?***



Space: the Final Frontier

achievements



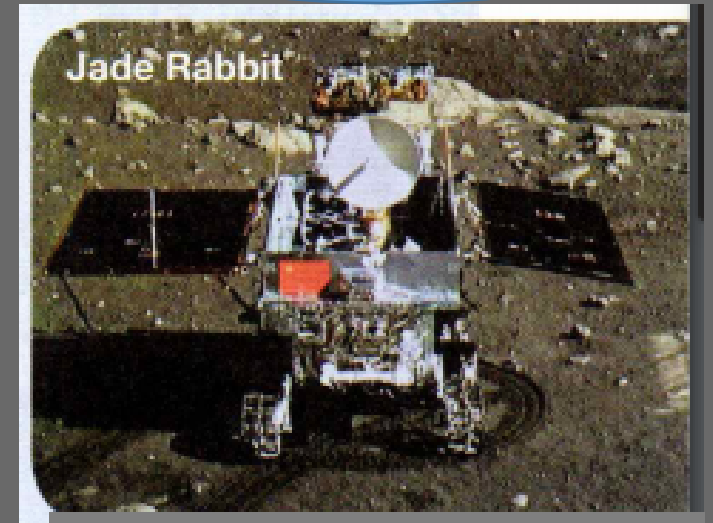
man's first success
moon spacewalk

accidents/ challenges



America's
challenger exploded

China's progress



China Jada Rabbit
on the moon

According to the title and illustrations,
can you infer what the passage include?

Can you choose the correct sentence to fill in the gap?

- A. Although scientists try to make sure nothing goes wrong, accidents can still happen.
- B. They also really wish to discover other planets that are suitable enough to support life.
- C. The future of space exploration remains bright.
- D. After many experiments, they succeeded in making rockets that could escape Earth's gravity.

"Are we alone? What's out there?" Looking up at the stars, people have always wanted to learn more about space, and scientists work hard to find answers. They make **vehicles** to carry brave people into space to find out the secrets of the **universe**.

B

Before the mid-20th century, most people felt travelling into space was an impossible dream. However, some scientists were determined to help humans realise their dream to explore space.

D

On 4 October 1957, the Sputnik 1 **satellite** was **launched** by the USSR and successfully **orbited** around Earth. Afterwards, the USSR focused on sending people into space, and on 12 April 1961, Yuri Gagarin became the first person in the world to go into space. Over eight years later, on 20 July 1969, American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, famously saying, "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for **mankind**." Following this, many more goals were achieved. For example, America's NASA space **agency** launched Voyager 1 on 5 September 1977 to study deep space, and it still transmits **data** today.

A

All the astronauts on the USSR's Soyuz 11 and America's Challenger died during their missions.



on Landing

These disasters made everyone sad and **disappointed**, but the **desire** to explore the universe never died. This is because people believe in the importance of carrying on space exploration despite the huge risks. An example of this ongoing work is the International Space Station. It orbits Earth and has astronauts from different countries on board, providing a continuous human presence in space.

China's space programme started later than those of Russia and the US, but it has made great progress in a short time. China became the third country in the world to independently send humans into space in 2003, when Yang Liwei successfully orbited Earth in the Shenzhou 5 spacecraft. Then Shenzhou 6 and 7 completed a second manned orbit and the first Chinese spacewalk, followed by the vehicle Jade Rabbit being sent to the moon to study its surface. After that, China launched the Tiangong 2 space lab into space and Tianzhou 1 to dock with it. This **signalled** one step further in China's plan to establish a space station in the future. More recently, China has sent Chang'e 4 to explore the surface of the far side of the moon to make measurements and observations.

C

Europe, the US, and China all have plans to further study and explore planets like Mars and Jupiter. Despite the difficulties, scientists hope future discoveries will not only enable us to understand how the universe began, but also help us survive well into the future.



Challenger after the accident



Jade Rabbit

Main idea of each paragraph

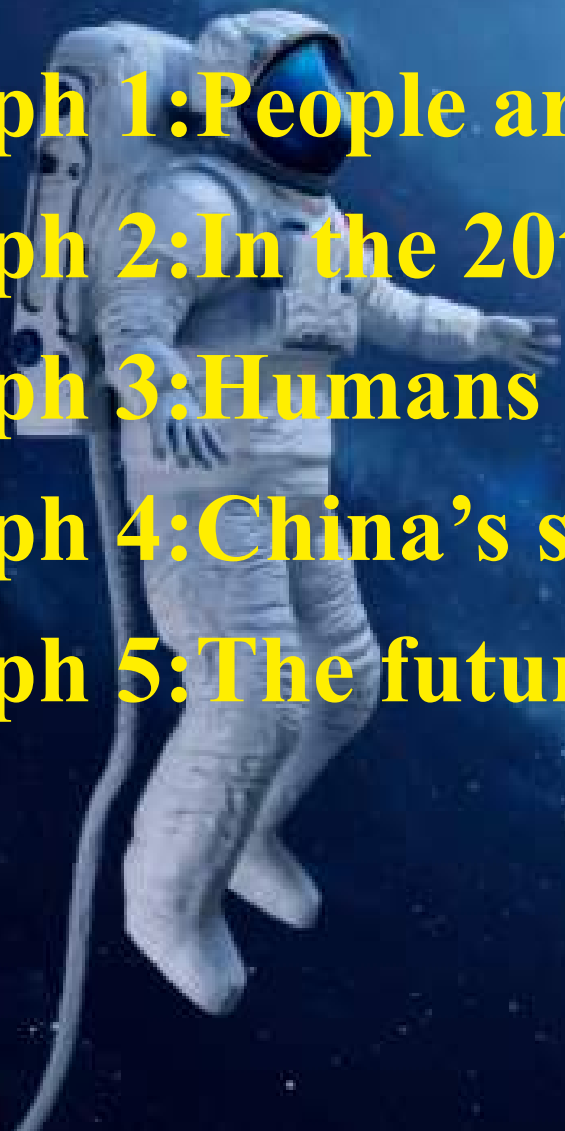
Paragraph 1: People are _____ and scientists _____.

Paragraph 2: In the 20th century, _____.

Paragraph 3: Humans _____ in spite of _____.

Paragraph 4: China's space programme _____.

Paragraph 5: The future of space exploration _____.

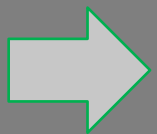


探究1

Para. 1

“Are we alone? What’s out there?” Looking **to find out the secrets of the universe**, people have always wanted **to learn more about space**, and scientists work hard to find answers. They make vehicles to carry brave people into space to find out the secrets of the universe. They also really wish **to discover other planets that are suitable enough to support life**.

● Why do people want to explore space?



main idea: Humans have always had a natural curiosity about space.

Space exploration carries human’s curiosity.

“Are we alone? What’s out there?” Looking up at the stars, people have always wanted to learn more about space, and scientists work hard to find answers. They make vehicles to carry brave people into space to find out the secrets of the universe. They also really wish to discover other planets that are suitable enough to support life.

● Why does the passage begin with two questions?

- ✓ To impress readers
- ✓ To attract readers’ attention and curiosity about the content
- ✓ To raise readers’ reflection

探究2

Para. 2

● What's the topic sentence in Para. 2?

Before the mid-20th century, most people realised their dream? as an impossible dream. **However, some scientists were determined to help humans realise their dream to explore space.** After many experiments, they succeeded in making rockets that could escape Earth's gravity. **On 4 October 1957**, the Sputnik 1 satellite was launched by the USSR and successfully orbited around Earth. Afterwards, the USSR focused on sending people into space, and **on 12 April 1961**, Yuri Gagarin became the first person in the world to go into space. **Over eight years later, on 20 July 1969**, American astronaut Neil Armstrong stepped onto the moon, famously saying, "That's one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind." **Following this**, many more goals were achieved. For example, America's NASA space agency launched Voyager 1 on **5 September 1977** to study deep space, and it still transmits data today.

While-reading

impossible
dream

**The Sputnik
1 satellite**
was launched
by the **USSR**

Yuri Gagarin,
he first person
to go into space

**Neil
Armstrong**
stepped onto
the moon

Voyager 1 was
sent to study
deep space, and
transmits data
today

before the
mid-20th
century

4 Oct. 1957

12 Apr.
1961

20 Jul.
1969

5 Sep.
1977

Space exploration **motivates** human's actions.

an **impossible** dream

a reality

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