

## Away to the Moon!

Being an astronaut, or crew member of a spaceflight, is a lot of work. Astronauts have to train very hard. Most astronauts are pilots, scientists, or doctors. They must rehearse, or practice, everything they will do on a mission. If anything goes wrong while in space, they must fix the problem.



Astronauts also have to overcome space sickness. Because there is no weight in space, an astronaut may suffer health problems. Their ears, blood pressure, and muscles can be affected. They often suffer from nausea. Radiation is also a threat. Radiation causes vomiting, loss of hair and teeth, and other problems.

Being an astronaut is a very exciting, but very difficult job.

### Answer the questions.

1. What is an astronaut? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What health problems might an astronaut have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What problems does radiation cause? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What other careers do astronauts have? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why do astronauts rehearse before space travel? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:** Who was the first astronaut to walk on the moon? Write his name and three facts about him.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Dear Diary

### Opinion Words to Watch For:

appeared	believe	seems	think
feel	looked	suppose	



**Read Rachel's diary page. Underline the opinion words you find.**

Dear Diary,

I think today was the most miserable day of my life. I always feel so rushed on school mornings. First I forgot my math homework at home. Mrs. Johnston, the math teacher, appeared to be very annoyed with me. She said it seems to her that I'm always unprepared for class.

Next I lost my science report. Mr. Hagler, the science teacher, looked as if he didn't believe I had written it. He told me I'll have to rewrite it by tomorrow.

Now I can't find my library book. I suppose the librarian will make me pay for it. Perhaps I left it in school. I hope tomorrow is a better day.

Rachel

**Answer the questions.**

1. What did Rachel forget at home?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Mr. Hagler tell Rachel to do?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why does Rachel think the librarian will make her pay for the book?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How do you think Rachel could keep track of things better?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you ever lose your books or school work? Explain why or why not.

\_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:** Write another diary page by Rachel. Explain in four or more sentences why the next day was a better day.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

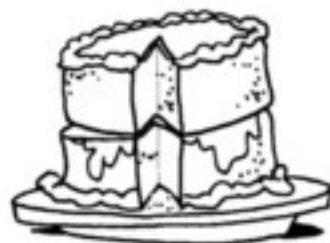
**Sometimes people seem to know something without being told. How do they know? Read each story carefully. Think about the answer choices. On the line, write the sentence that tells how they know.**

### Let Them Eat Cake

Mom was ready to set the table for dinner. When she went into the dining room, Jim's book was on the table. It had brown fingerprints on it. She moved his things and went ahead and set the table. After dinner, Mom went to get the chocolate cake she had baked for dessert, but there was a huge piece missing! When she went back into the dining room, she looked at everyone seated around the table. Then she asked Jim how he liked the cake.

**Mom knew who had eaten the cake. How did she know?**

There was a piece of cake missing.  
She looked to see who had eaten the least for dinner.  
She remembered the brown fingerprints on Jim's book.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

### Who's Calling?

The four children shouted goodbye to their dad as they left for a friend's house. They were all going to ride their bicycles. Later, Dad went into the garage to get the rake and noticed that one of the bikes had a flat tire. In a while, Mom yelled out to him that one of the children had called and needed a ride home. Before Mom told him which one of the children called, Dad said, "I'll go pick up Maria."

**How did Dad know Maria needed a ride home?**

Maria had told him she would need a ride before she left.  
The bike in the garage with the flat tire was Maria's.  
Maria's bicycle had been stolen.



2. \_\_\_\_\_

**Bonus:** Give three reasons Maria's bicycle could have a flat tire. Use complete sentences.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

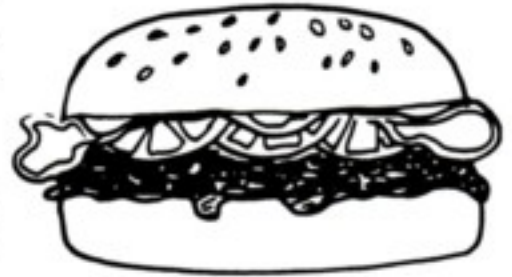
## Have a Hamburger

Many years ago, some men put a piece of meat under the saddle on a horse. They thought that would make the meat tender and easy to eat. At the end of the day, the rider took the saddle off the horse. The meat had been mashed by the weight of the saddle. The men ate the mashed meat without cooking it. They really liked it.

Later, some men in Germany heard about the mashed meat. They decided to try to grind the meat in a machine. It worked. These men lived in a city called Hamburg. They didn't like to eat raw meat, so they broiled the ground beef.

Some time later, a group of Americans were on a trip to Germany. They ate some of the broiled ground beef. When they came home, they told their friends how good it was.

Soon they began to eat the meat in sandwiches. They called them "hamburgers" because they had learned about the meat in Hamburg.



Circle the letter in the "True" column if the sentence is true. Circle the letter in the "False" column if the sentence is *not* true. When you circle a letter in the "True" column, copy the sentence from the story that will prove your answer is correct.

- |  | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. The saddle was supposed to make the meat tender. _____<br>_____ | S    | H     |
| 2. The horse used a machine to grind the meat. _____<br>_____      | V    | T     |
| 3. The cooks in Hamburg broiled the meat. _____<br>_____           | E    | G     |
| 4. Americans ate the meat in Germany. _____<br>_____               | A    | N     |
| 5. The hamburger is named after a city in America. _____<br>_____  | N    | K     |

**DICTIONARY ACTIVITY:** Put the five letters you circled on this line to spell a word. Look up the word in the dictionary. Write the meaning of the word on another piece of paper.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Please Pass the Salt

Salt is made of sodium and chlorine. In chemistry, it is called sodium chloride. Sodium will burst into flames when it touches water. Chlorine is a gas that can kill people if they breathe it. When sodium and chlorine are mixed just right, we have salt. It doesn't catch on fire or poison us.

In fact, people must have a small amount of salt in their diet to stay alive. We know that we should not eat too much salt, though. It can cause us to get high blood pressure.

In early times, people used salt as money. It was called "salarium." Now we don't use it to buy things, but when we earn money, we are paid a "salary." The word "salary" comes from the old word "salarium."

Salt is not used to just season our food. It is used to keep food from spoiling, too. Salt is important in making medicine, plastic, glass, steel, and other things. The only mineral harder than salt is the diamond.



**Circle the letter in the "True" column if the sentence is true. Circle the letter in the "False" column if the sentence is *not* true. When you circle a letter in the "True" column, copy the sentence from the story that will prove your answer is correct.**

- |  | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| 1. People can stay alive without salt. _____<br>_____                | D    | S     |
| 2. Chlorine is bad to breathe. _____<br>_____                        | P    | E     |
| 3. Sodium chloride is the scientific name for salt. _____<br>_____   | I    | K     |
| 4. Not enough salt will give you high blood pressure. _____<br>_____ | O    | C     |
| 5. Salt is used in making glass. _____<br>_____                      | E    | M     |

**DICTIONARY ACTIVITY:** Put the five letters you circled on this line to spell a word. Look up the word in the dictionary. Write the meaning of the word on another piece of paper.

\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Writing the Main Idea

Read each short paragraph below. Then fill in the missing words to tell the main idea.

1. Stamp collecting is educational because you learn about flags, rulers of countries, nature, and different lands. It is also a fun way to make new friends. You can trade stamps with others and join stamp clubs.



Stamp \_\_\_\_\_ is an \_\_\_\_\_  
and \_\_\_\_\_ hobby.

2. If you become a stamp collector, there are some special things that you will use. You need a stamp catalog. This catalog has pictures of stamps from different countries. Then you can match stamps you buy or get in the mail to the pictures. Most stamp collectors use stamp tongs to pick up their stamps. These are similar to tweezers and keep fingerprints off of the stamps.



\_\_\_\_\_ collectors need stamps, a \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

3. There are certain things to look for when buying stamps for your collection. Brightly colored stamps are more valuable than faded stamps. Stamps with most of their stickiness are more prized than ones without the gum on the back. The picture should be centered so there is a good frame around the stamp design.

There are \_\_\_\_\_ things to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ when \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

## Cold, Cold, Cold



When winter comes, animals must find ways to take care of themselves. They do this in many different ways.

Many birds fly from their cold homes to places where it is warmer. They stay there until spring comes to their home land.

Animals cannot fly away from the cold. Many find safe, warm places to sleep through the winter. They stay there until it gets warm outside again.

Other animals stay out in the cold. They grow heavy fur coats that will keep them warm. When spring comes, much of this heavy fur falls out. A few animals change color. Their brown fur changes to white for the winter.



1. Why can't birds stay where it is cold? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why don't other animals travel to where the weather is warmer in the winter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. When animals sleep through the winter, how do they eat? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. How does it help animals to have white fur in winter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Some birds live where it is always warm. What do they do in the winter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Where would be a safe, warm place for an animal to spend the winter? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## HOME-RUN HITTERS

**Babe Ruth** was the first great home-run hitter in baseball history. He started playing Major League Baseball in 1914 with the Baltimore Orioles. Later that year, he joined the Boston Red Sox as a pitcher. He pitched in two World Series with the Red Sox. But he was an even greater hitter than he was a pitcher. In 1920, the New York Yankees paid \$125,000 for Babe Ruth. No one had ever paid that much for a ball player. With the Yankees, Babe gave up pitching. He played in the outfield. Then he could put all his effort into batting.

In 1927, Babe set a record by hitting 60 home runs in one season. During his baseball career, Babe Ruth hit 714 homers. That was a new record that was not to be broken for many years.

Babe Ruth ended his baseball career with the Boston Braves in 1935. In his final game, he hit three home runs. In 1938, Ruth coached the Brooklyn Dodgers for a short while. But he became ill and had to quit baseball altogether. He died in 1948 in New York.

During his career, Babe set more than 50 records. Many are still standing. In 1936, he was one of the first players to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame. Babe Ruth played baseball for 22 years.

**Henry "Hank" Aaron** broke Babe Ruth's home-run record in 1974. At the time, he was playing for the Atlanta Braves. The Braves were playing the Los Angeles Dodgers. Baseball fans all over the country were watching to see if he could hit his 715th home run to beat Babe Ruth's record. In his second time at bat, Henry Aaron drove the ball over the left-field wall. A new record was set.

By the time Aaron quit baseball in 1976, he had hit a total of 755 homers. He was an outfielder. He played with the Milwaukee Brewers and Atlanta Braves. In 1957, Aaron was named the most valuable player of the National League. In four different years, he led the National League in home runs hit in a season. He played baseball for 22 years. He also coached after he was no longer a player. Henry "Hank" Aaron is now a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, and he is still an avid fan.



Use the **COMPARISON SHEET** to show the similarities and differences between Babe Ruth and Henry Aaron. Compare records they set, years in baseball, positions they played, and any other facts you have found.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Read the story. Then complete the story web.

**Sally Ride** was the first American woman in space. She was also the youngest astronaut to travel to space. When she traveled to space she was only thirty-one years old. Sally Ride started training for her mission in 1978 at NASA in Houston, Texas. She went through rigorous astronaut training and then served as the "capcorn" for the space shuttle flight *Columbia*. As the "capcorn," Sally was the only person to talk to the astronauts while they were in space. She helped the astronauts monitor the different cockpit lights and kept the astronauts up-to-date on how the flight was going. When one of the astronauts aboard *Columbia* was describing to Sally Ride what Earth looked like from space, she responded, "Sounds great. When do I get my chance?" Sally Ride's own chance to view Earth from above came several years later when she traveled aboard *The Challenger* in April 1983.

