

# Tour the International Space Station

## Activity Goals

In this virtual field trip, you will:

- View the four videos touring the International Space Station
- Take notes about features of the station you find most interesting
- Draft questions to ask the astronauts aboard the International Space Station

### “Location” of Field Trip

International Space Station Tours: [https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/station/main/suni\\_iss\\_tour.html](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/suni_iss_tour.html)

## Fast Facts

- The International Space Station (ISS) is a large, manned space vehicle that has been orbiting around Earth since the 1990s.
- The ISS has been occupied continuously since the year 2000.
- The ISS orbits the Earth every 90 minutes. That means that the astronauts in the ISS get to watch the sun rise and set 16 times a day.
- The ISS is about the length of one football field from end to end.
- More than 200 astronauts from 19 countries have visited the ISS.

## Before You Begin

In this activity, you will explore the International Space Station through watching a set of four videos. You'll use the **Note-Taking Worksheet** to write down details as you watch. Then, you'll use the **Astronaut Interview Worksheet** to draft a set of questions to ask the astronauts.

### Key Vocabulary

**airlock:** A compartment with controlled air pressure.

**hygiene station:** A bathroom.

**node:** A place where passageways come together.

**soyuz:** A spacecraft designed by Russia and commonly used to carry astronauts back and forth from the ISS.

## Instructions for Trip

1. Go to the International Space Station Tours site.
2. Open the **Note-Taking Worksheet** and keep it nearby.
3. Click on and watch each of the four Station Tour videos.
4. Take notes in the **Note-Taking Worksheet** about those aspects of the ISS you would like to learn more about.

5. Open the **Astronaut Interview Worksheet** and draft five interview questions to ask astronauts about the ISS.
6. Share what you learned about the ISS with a family member.

## Questions for Discussion

- What did you think was the most interesting part of the ISS tour? Why?
- If offered the opportunity, would you visit the ISS and stay for a week? Do you think you could stay longer than a week?
- What type of training do you think the astronauts require in order to prepare them to work aboard the ISS?
- How do you think astronauts lived and worked in space before the ISS?
- How do you think astronauts will live and work in space after the ISS is gone?

## Wrap-Up

Congratulations, scholar! You've now completed the International Space Station Tour. In the process, you've learned a lot about how astronauts live and work many thousands of miles above the surface of the Earth.

### Family Notes

As an additional task, consider having scholars research their own questions and draft answers to the questions. Also, scholars might also want to visit the Spot the Station site to see if the International Space Station is visible in the night sky near their home. That site is here: <https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>.

## Astronaut Interview Worksheet

**Instructions:** After watching the International Space Station (ISS) video tours, use this worksheet to draft five questions to ask astronauts aboard the station.

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:

Question 4:

Question 5: