

Space facts



- Tim Peake blasted off into space on 15 December 2015. He joined the International Space Station for an exciting six-month mission (Expeditions 46 and 47).
- The International Space Station (ISS) is a large spacecraft in orbit around Earth – this means it travels in a regular repeating pattern around Earth. The ISS is home for crews of astronauts and cosmonauts (Americans usually use the word astronaut, but Russians call them cosmonauts). The ISS is also a unique science laboratory.
- Lots of countries work together to build and use the ISS. It's made of parts that were put together in space by astronauts.
- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) uses the ISS to learn more about living and working in space. They want to learn more so they can send humans further into space than ever before.
- During launch, each astronaut or cosmonaut is allowed to choose three songs to be played to them. Tim Peake chose 'Don't Stop Me Now' by Queen, 'Beautiful Day' by U2, and 'A Sky Full of Stars' by Coldplay.

The bases in this activity are named after four modules on the ISS:

- **Zvezda** was one of the first modules to be assembled. It has a work space, as well as docking ports that other craft can attach to.
- **Quest** is the main airlock. It's an airtight room with two entrances, so astronauts can leave the ISS to go on spacewalks without letting the air out of the ISS.
- **Kibo** is Japan's laboratory module. Astronauts study space medicine and how to communicate between Earth and space.
- **Canadarm2** is officially called the Mobile Servicing System (MSS). It's a special robotic arm that's used to move equipment and supplies around the ISS. It was built by the Canadian space agency.