Reading

1 *'I see Earth. It's so beautiful!'*

2 These are the first words spoken by a human in space. On 12 April 1961 Yuri Gagarin became the first human in space when he flew around the Earth in a spacecraft called *Vostok 1*. He was only twenty-seven at the time. The spacecraft flew at a speed of over 27,000 kilometres an hour, more than 300 kilometres above the Earth. The flight lasted 108 minutes.

3 Gagarin volunteered to become one of the first Soviet astronauts in 1959. As part of his training, he had to sit in a room without sound or light for twenty-four hours! The flight of *Vostok 1* made him famous all around the world, and he became a hero in the Soviet Union. He never went into space again, but he helped train other astronauts until he died in a plane crash in 1968.

4 There were six *Vostok* flights. While the first lasted less than two hours, *Vostok 2* stayed in space for more than twenty-five hours. It flew around the Earth seventeen times! Later *Vostok* flights lasted even longer and *Vostok 6* took the first woman, Valentina Tereshkova, into space on 16 June 1963.

5 No one was certain if the astronauts who went on these flights would come back alive. But they did, and our ideas about space were changed forever.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary

A. Complete each sentence with the correct word or phrase.

spacecraft speed astronaut plane crash hero

1. Many people say that UFOs are _____ from other planets.
2. The train was travelling at a _____ of 180 km an hour.
3. Neil Armstrong was the first _____ to walk on the moon.
4. Qantas is the safest airline in the world. It has never had a major _____.
5. In the film *The Matrix*, Keanu Reeves plays the _____, Neo.

B. Choose the correct word or phrase with the same meaning as the blue words in each sentence.

noise the area beyond the Earth where the stars and planets are
continued offered practice

1. When my uncle died, I volunteered to help my aunt around the house. Now I cut her grass once a week.
2. Space is huge, empty and lonely. Our planet is just a small blue rock floating in it.
3. That film lasted a long time! I fell asleep in the middle of it.
4. I heard a strange sound outside my window, but it was only the cat!
5. Without training, you'll never become an Olympic swimmer.

In other words

A. What is the main purpose of the passage? Circle 1, 2 or 3.

1. To describe the first time humans walked on the moon.
2. To tell Yuri Gagarin's life story.
3. To describe the first flights in space.

B. Match each heading to the correct paragraph in the passage.

1. Paragraph ____ The life story of a hero.
2. Paragraph ____ A message from space.
3. Paragraph ____ The history of the *Vostok* flights.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

General understanding

Circle T for true or F for false for each of the following statements.

1. Yuri Gagarin could not see the Earth from *Vostok 1*. T / F
2. Yuri Gagarin only travelled into space once in his lifetime. T / F
3. The Soviet Union never sent a woman into space. T / F
4. All the *Vostok* astronauts came back safely. T / F

In detail

Write short answers to the following questions.

1. Who was the first human in space? _____
2. How fast did *Vostok 1* travel? _____
3. What did Yuri Gagarin have to do as part of his training?
   _____
4. How did Yuri Gagarin die? _____
5. How many times did *Vostok 2* fly around the Earth?
   _____
6. Valentina Tereshkova was the first woman in space. What was the name of her spacecraft? _____

In focus

Number the following sentences from 1 to 5 to put them in the correct order.

a. ____ *Vostok 2* stayed in space for more than twenty-five hours.
b. ____ Yuri Gagarin died in a plane crash.
c. ____ The first human in space travelled around the Earth in a trip lasting 108 minutes.
d. ____ Yuri Gagarin became a hero in the Soviet Union and famous throughout the world.
e. ____ Valentina Tereshkova was the first female astronaut.

LIVEWORKSHEETS