

Reading

1 **READING** Look at the photos and the title of the article and answer the questions.

- How much do you think it costs to go into space as a tourist?
- Do you think space tourists need to prepare to travel to space? Why/Why not?
- What do you think space tourists do when they're in space?

2 Read the article quickly. Does it mention any of your ideas in 1?

3 **ANSWER** Answer the questions with information from the article.

- Where do space tourists travel to?
- Why was Richard Garriott not able to work as an astronaut?
- How much was his ticket into space?
- What nationalities were the people on the spaceship with Richard?
- Why was Richard like a real astronaut?
- What does Richard do now?

4 Match the underlined words in the text to these definitions.

- the period of time when someone is alive
- a test to find out what happens in a special situation
- from, or in, another country
- the ability to see
- the force that makes objects fall to earth
- when you want something very much and problems don't stop you
- to become popular and make a lot of money

5 **Critical thinkers**

In your opinion, is space tourism a good or bad idea?

What makes you say that?

Use ideas from the text and other information to justify your opinion. Then share your ideas.

Reach higher

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

SPACE TOURISTS

Most people enjoy travelling, perhaps to an exciting city, a beautiful town in the countryside or a relaxing beach in a foreign country. But what about going on a trip to a different planet? You can't buy a package holiday to the moon or Mars yet, but there are videos and photos of space tourists showing us their amazing trips to the International Space Station (ISS).

American Dennis Tito was the first ever space tourist in 2001. Then over the next eight years, there were five other lucky space tourists. There was South African Mark Shuttleworth in 2002 and American Gregory Olsen in 2005. Then, the first female space tourist was Iranian Anousheh Ansari in 2006. Hungarian Charles Simonyi was so excited about space that he was there twice, in 2007 and 2009. American Richard Garriott was finally in space in 2008 – for him it really was the trip of a lifetime.

As a young boy, Richard Garriott was similar to other children, with a dream of being an astronaut. NASA was only a few miles away from his home in the US and his dad was an astronaut! However, Richard's eyesight was bad – he couldn't see well without glasses. Good eyesight is important for an astronaut. But Richard was determined to find another way to travel into space.

As an adult, Richard was lucky enough to work in something else he was excited about – video games. He was very successful and after a long time he was able to earn enough money to travel into space on the Soyuz spacecraft. The ticket for the trip to space was \$30 million. After two years of training and 30 years of waiting, on 12th October, 2008, Richard was on a spaceship with the American NASA astronaut, Michael Fincke and the Russian cosmonaut, Yuri Lonchakov. They were in space for 12 fantastic days.

On the ISS there were lots of experiments to do, so Richard was like a normal astronaut. One experiment for NASA was to study the effect of space travel on people with his eye problem. Another experiment was for a Japanese watch company. Richard was the first person to travel into space with a special low-gravity watch.

Now, Richard gives talks about his trip and explains to people how looking at the earth from space gives you a new way of seeing our world: from space you can see how humans are

arranged to live on the planet. It's like seeing the world from Mars with the help of



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