

3rd grade high school.	July 15th, 2024.
Name: _____	

News report 1

CASSINI SPACECRAFT BEGINS LAST STAGE OF 20-YEAR MISSION

May 22, 2017 8:06 pm by Monique Conrod, current events

Example. a. Headline

Saturn. Photograph from Cassini, taken on October 2004. Image: NASA

In October 1997, a spacecraft called the Cassini orbiter was launched on a mission to explore Saturn and its moons.

Now, after nearly 20 years in space, Cassini's mission is coming to an end. John River, a famous astronomer said that Cassini was running out of fuel. He said that scientists expected it to burn up in Saturn's atmosphere in September.

But before that happens, the spacecraft will make a series of dives between Saturn and its rings, sending photographs and other information back to Earth.

Cassini is a joint project of NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Italian space agency (ASI). It took seven years for the spacecraft to reach Saturn, after travelling about 2.2 billion kilometres. It completed its first orbit of the planet on July 1, 2004. (Cassini was the fourth Earth spacecraft to reach Saturn, and the first to orbit it).

Scientists have learned many exciting things from the Cassini mission. They used to think Saturn had 17 moons, but now they know there are actually 62 moons orbiting the planet. Cassini also added to scientists' understanding of storms on Saturn, the ice and dust that make up its rings, and the atmospheres and geography of some of Saturn's moons. (In 2005, Cassini delivered a space probe to the biggest moon – Titan – so scientists could get a closer look at the moon's surface).

One of the most important discoveries Cassini made was that there is warm, liquid water under the ice that covers one of Saturn's smaller moons, Enceladus. Scientists believe conditions on Enceladus could be similar to the conditions that led to the development of life on Earth.

Cassini's mission was supposed to end in 2008, but because it was still in good shape and still sending back useful information, scientists extended it to 2017.

Now Cassini is performing the last task of its mission. On April 26, it flew through the narrow gap between Saturn and its innermost ring for the first time. It will pass through that gap 22 times altogether, gathering even more valuable information and images to send back to Earth.

John River said that when Cassini ran out of fuel and entered Saturn's atmosphere in September, it would burn up like a meteor. He said it was necessary for Cassini to be totally destroyed so there was no chance that microbes from Earth would contaminate any possible life on Saturn. But the information Cassini has sent home from Saturn makes it one of the most successful exploration missions ever launched from Earth.



- Find, underline and write the name of each of the following elements within the text. (Encuentra, subraya y nombra cada uno de los siguientes elementos dentro del texto).

a. Headline, b. By-line, c. Body, d) What's happening?, e. Who is involved?, f. Where is this happening?, g. When is it happening?, h. Why is it happening?, d. Details.