Kennedy Space Center

The John F. Kennedy Space Center in Florida is the NASA complex where rockets are launched into space. It is a huge site, being 55 kilometres long and around ten kilometres wide – much larger than the city of Miami! It covers 567 square kilometres and more than 8,000 people work there.

The complex includes the world's tallest one-storey building, the impressive Vehicle Assembly Building, which rises 160 metres above the ground. You can also find one of the world's longest airport runways there, the nearly five-kilometre-long Shuttle Landing Facility, where the space shuttles used to land after their missions.

Of course, not all of the Center is open to the public, but there is a visitors' centre and there are guided bus tours you can go on, as well as self-guided walking tours of some areas. The Visitor Complex is open every day of the year except 25 December and on certain launch days, and is open from 9 a.m. until 5.30 p.m., although the Astronaut Hall of Fame is open until 6.30 p.m.

It is a fantastic place to visit because there is so much to see and do. Whatever you're into, you're likely to find things to entertain you. The Visitor Complex has a number of museums and also two IMAX cinemas. The Astronaut Hall of Fame is a must. **It** has spacecraft exhibits and all kinds of objects connected with the history of space travel. You can go on a Shuttle Launch Simulator. Take a deep breath before you enter, it is truly a thrilling experience! In the Astronaut Simulator you get to feel what it's like to walk on the moon. Or if you're lucky enough, in the Astronaut Encounter you can talk to actual astronauts who have experienced the real thing.

At the complex, you can also visit the rocket garden where you can see the first rocket that US astronauts travelled in. Adventurous children and adults alike will enjoy climbing into some of the models. It's often predicted that space travel will be common by 2050. Who knows? Perhaps one day those kids playing on the models will be travelling among the stars.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3 EXAM TASK **Read the text. For questions (1–5), choose the correct answer (A, B, C or D).**

1 What is the Kennedy Space Center?
- A the place where all US space rockets are built
- B a space-themed entertainment park
- C the site where spacecraft are launched from
- D a place where many astronauts live

2 What is special about the Vehicle Assembly Building?
- A It is built on a 160-metre tall hill.
- B It only has one very high storey.
- C It is the world's tallest building.
- D It is five kilometres from the shuttle landing site.

3 If you plan to visit the Space Center, what should you keep in mind?
- A You will have to be your own guide.
- B Visiting all parts of the Center takes a long time.
- C It is closed on some occasions.
- D You can only tour the site by bus.

4 What does 'it' in paragraph 4 refer to?
- A the human side of space travel
- B the Kennedy Space Center
- C the Astronaut Hall of Fame
- D the Visitor Complex

5 Where can you have an experience similar to walking on the moon?
- A the Shuttle Launch Simulator
- B the rocket garden
- C the Astronaut Encounter
- D the Astronaut Simulator

LIVEWORKSHEETS