

Out-of-This-World Informational Texts

Introduce your students to the future of space travel as they analyze reading passages and space vocabulary.



Objective

Students use text features and visual information to learn about a spaceship's interior, and infer the meaning of space-related vocabulary words.

Standards (CCSS)

Gr 2–4: RI.7: Use diagrams to explain text

Gr 2–5: RI.1: Use text details to answer questions

RI.5: Use text features and/or structure

L.4: Determine the meaning of unknown words

Time

Part A: 40 minutes

Part B: 40 minutes

Materials

Take a Tour of a Spaceship reading passage

► Passage A: Gr. 2–3

► Passage B: Gr. 4–5

What's in a Spaceship activity sheet (Gr. 2–3)

Use Diagrams to Explore Space activity sheet (Gr. 4–5)

Exploring Mars reading passage

► Passage A: Gr. 2–3

► Passage B: Gr. 4–5



Part A

Exploring the Inside of a Spaceship

1 Hook students by asking how they would survive if they were able to travel to space. Where would they sleep? How would they stay clean in space?

2 Explain that students will read an informational article about the interior of a spaceship.

3 Distribute the Take a Tour of a Spaceship reading passage for students' grade level and preview its structure.

4 Grades 2–3:

- Review the text features that help students understand informational texts, including headings, bold words, and captions.
- Have students act out different text features as a class (e.g., jumping and waving to represent the prominence of a heading).

Grades 4–5:

- Describe in words a device with many parts, like a washing machine or a hairdryer. Ask students if they understand what you're describing. Show a picture and ask again. Emphasize that visuals and diagrams can be important for comprehension.

5 Distribute the activity sheet for students' grade level.

6 Have students read the article and complete the activity sheet to guide their analysis of the text.

Part B

Building Vocabulary on Mars

1 Ask students to imagine they have landed on Mars. What do they think they'll see? How will they feel? What would they need to survive? Explain that they will be investigating facts about Mars and learning new vocabulary.

2 Distribute the Exploring Mars reading passage for students' grade level. Read the article as a class, stopping to infer the meaning of the space vocabulary words.

3 Discuss what students learned about life on Mars from reading the article. Ask: *Would you want to visit Mars? Why or why not?*

4 Guide students in creating a vocabulary graphic organizer for a selection of the bold words in the passage. Include the definition, an example, a non-example, and a drawing (Frayer model organizer). If you have time, challenge students to find creative ways to act out the words.

5 Ask questions using the space-related vocabulary words (e.g., When would you use a sensor?).

6 Have students select two space vocabulary words from the list and write a sentence using both. You can challenge students to include a certain mood in their space sentence: exciting, silly, scary, etc.



EXTENSION

SPACE FICTION Challenge students to use what they learned

to write a story featuring at least two space vocabulary words, two parts of a spaceship, and two space careers!