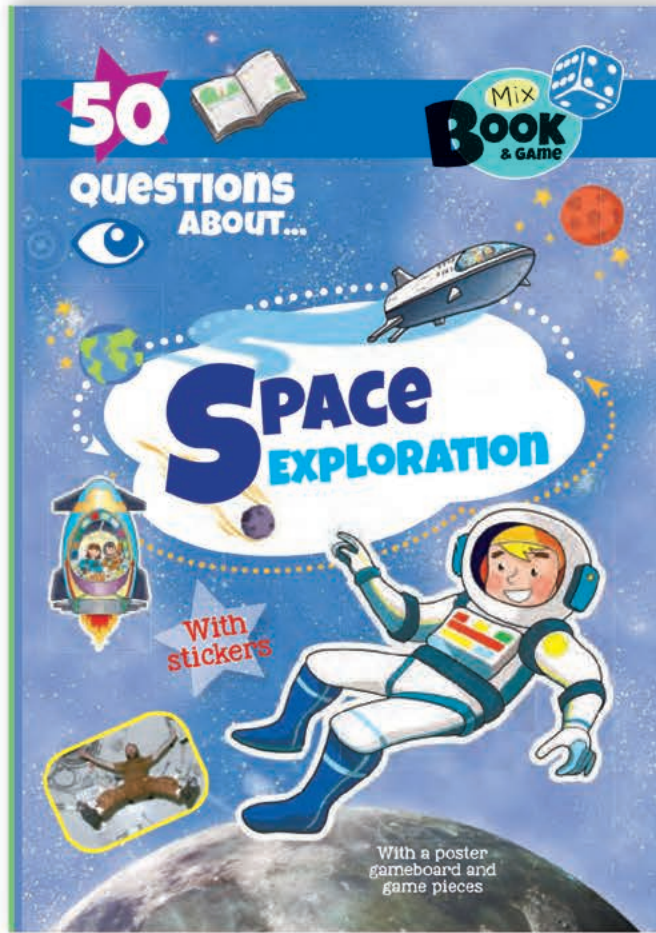


# 50 Questions about Space Exploration

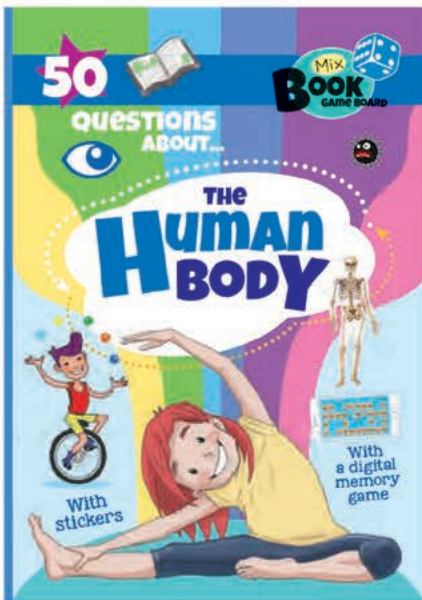
DELIVERY  
MAR 2026

MATERIAL  
01/09/2025

1 title  
210 x 297 mm  
24 pages  
+ poster  
& stickers



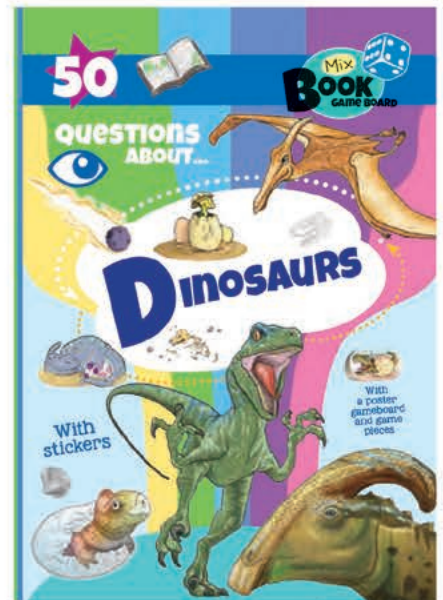
## PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED:



S0216



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**19 What's it like to LIVE IN SPACE?**  
Nobody actually 'lives' in space. North American, European, Russian and Japanese astronauts can visit the International Space Station (ISS), around 400 km above Earth, to work for around a month at a time. They go there to carry out research, conduct experiments and launch satellites. It must be very odd there as everything floats!

**20 How BIG is the ISS?**  
About the size of a large six-bedroom two-bathroom house. It was designed to sleep seven people at a time, but during crew handovers, there may not be enough beds to go around. The space station has two gym and an unbeatable 360-degree view! It weighs 38,000 tonnes, so it's also moving pretty fast.

**21 What can you EAT AND DRINK up there?**  
Food, which includes rice, pasta and even desserts, is generally dehydrated. In other words, all the water has been removed to make it small and light and help it keep for a long time without a fridge. To eat it, you just add water. Drinks are drunk through special straws to stop the liquid floating all over the place. And fizzy drinks are best avoided!

**22 Can you have a PARTY in space?**  
Yes, but you won't have many guests! You can celebrate your birthday with a powdered or brewed 'cake', and your crewmates can sing 'Happy Birthday' as they float around. Maybe you'll also get messages from your family back on Earth to make the day even more special.

**23 How and where do you SLEEP?**  
You have to sleep strapped into a special sleeping bag that is fixed to the wall or ceiling. Everything floats in the space station, so this bag prevents astronauts from drifting off while they sleep. It's very dark, and even if you sleep upside or upside down, your body doesn't feel it. It's like sleeping in a floating bubble.

**24 What about going to the TOILET?**  
The lack of gravity makes going to the toilet a potentially sticky situation! Astronauts pee into a tube while a special Hoover sucks up the liquid for recycling. And when they need to do a number two, they have to strap themselves onto a toilet that also works a bit like a vacuum cleaner.

**10 Do astronauts travel in ROCKETS?**  
A rocket is an engine, not a vehicle. Astronauts travel in a special rocket, which is propelled into orbit by a rocket. The rocket detaches and the capsule goes on to dock at the International Space Station (ISS). On the way back, the capsule releases parachutes after re-entering Earth's atmosphere, then fires its small engines to slow down further. But it's still a bumpy landing!

**11 Can they take PERSONAL BELONGINGS with them?**  
Yes, but only very small, very light things. NASA provides its astronauts with a 'personal preference kit', a small pouch for storing a few personal items. It's only the size of a lunchbox, so there's no room for 'cuddly toys'. What would you take?

**12 What must they NOT FORGET?**  
Food! They need lots and lots of freeze-dried meals – enough to last them going for the length of the mission, plus some to spare. These don't have to fit in their pockets, though! Since all the water on the spacecraft is cleaned and reused (including sweat), they don't need to carry too much of it. This helps to keep the weight down.

**13 Are spacecraft flown by REMOTE CONTROL?**  
Every space mission needs a pilot – but just like on any other flight, many of the flight manoeuvres are programmed. Launch is always done on autopilot, as is much of the cruising. But docking a capsule at the space station sometimes requires a human touch.

**14 How FAST do spacecraft travel?**  
The Apollo 10 mission to the Moon in 1969 hit a record speed of almost 40,000 km/h. That may appear to be unreasonably fast, but it's nothing compared to the Parker Solar Probe, an unmanned spacecraft, which clocked a top speed of 586,000 km/h on 20 November 2021!

**15 How LONG does it take to get there?**  
That depends where 'there' is! In theory, the ISS is just a few hours away, but it can take a very long time to dock – sometimes days! The Moon is three days away, then if we were ever to go to Mars, we would need to allow a good time months each way.



STICKERS

WITH A GAMEBOARD AND GAME PIECES!

**1 Is space a LONG WAY away?**  
Actually, it's not as far as you might think – it officially starts just 100 kilometres above our heads. But at this altitude, Earth's atmosphere is too thin to have regular flights in the air, so special spacecraft are needed instead. And of course, space stretches out possibly infinite, so most of it is a very long way away indeed!

**2 WHY do we need astronauts?**  
Well, if we want to know more about our solar system, somebody needs to go out there and take a look around! Astronauts are sent to space to maintain the International Space Station (ISS), carry out scientific experiments and launch satellites, among other important tasks.

**3 WHO can be an astronaut?**  
If you're extremely good at science or engineering, or a skilled pilot, you could be an astronaut. But you need to be very fit too, as flying through space is pretty tough on the body. And if you want to work at the ISS, speaking English is not enough – you will also need to master Russian.

**4 What TRAINING does an astronaut receive?**  
There is a lot to learn! Not only about space technology, the experiments carried out in space and life at the space station, but also basic medical skills – and often a new language too. Astronauts also receive practical training in conditions similar to those on a space mission. Their Earth-based training lasts several years.

**5 Why do they train in the DESERT?**  
To practise survival techniques. In space, astronauts are going to find themselves in an unimaginably harsh environment facing unexpected challenges, and they need to be up to the job! So a few of them are left in the middle of a remote and extreme landscape – often something hot or freezing cold – to test how well they are likely to cope.

**6 And in a SWIMMING POOL?**  
One of the big challenges of life in space is coping with weightlessness – in other words, not being able to keep your feet on the ground! The closest we can get to this here on Earth is underwater. Wearing heavy spacesuits and scuba equipment, astronauts spend hours carrying out complex tasks at the bottom of the biggest swimming pool ever used!

**Let's play! Space Exploration The Game!**

**TRUE OR FALSE?**  
1. Astronauts need to wear spacesuits in space. **True**  
2. The ISS is usually built in space. **False**  
3. The first person to walk on the Moon was Neil Armstrong. **True**  
4. Space is a vacuum. **True**  
5. The Moon has a thin atmosphere. **False**  
6. Astronauts can see Earth from space. **True**  
7. The International Space Station is the largest man-made object in space. **True**  
8. Astronauts spend most of their waking life in sleep. **True**  
9. The by-product of space exploration is oxygen. **False**  
10. There are no oceans on the Moon. **True**

**MISS THE SPACE STATION!**  
1. You've missed the space station! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.  
2. You've missed the space station! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.  
3. You've missed the space station! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.

**YOU'VE DONE IT!**  
1. You've done it! Roll the dice and move your piece to the finish.  
2. You've done it! Roll the dice and move your piece to the finish.  
3. You've done it! Roll the dice and move your piece to the finish.

**MISS 2 turns**  
1. You've missed the space station! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.  
2. You've missed the space station! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.

**LOST IN SPACE!**  
1. You've lost in space! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.  
2. You've lost in space! Roll the dice and move your piece back to the start.

POSTER

- A buzzworthy and engaging theme
- A mix of serious facts and fun tidbits
- Includes a board game and stickers
- Digital game available

More info

