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All About Astronauts

by Bill Kirk



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All About Astronauts

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Glossary

college	a school where students can study after high school
gravity	a force that pulls people toward Earth
mission	a special job for an astronaut
spacecraft	a machine that flies into space
space suit	special clothing that an astronaut wears for space flights

All About Astronauts

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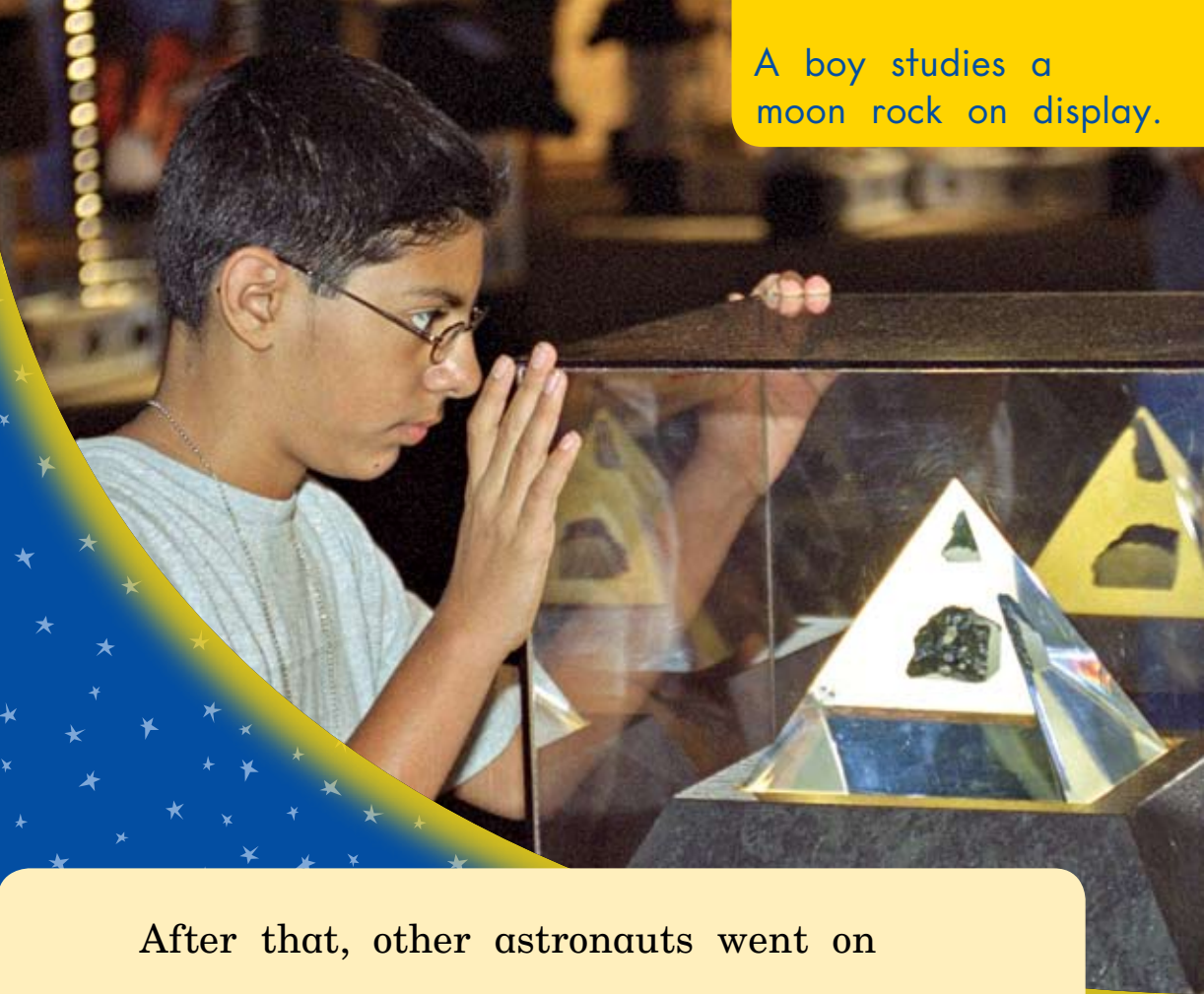
Walking on the Moon

Astronauts travel into space. The astronauts work in teams to do special jobs in space. The jobs are called missions.

One team of U.S. astronauts had a very special mission to fly from Earth to the moon. In July of 1969, people all over the world watched on TV as this team arrived at the moon. Astronaut Neil Armstrong became the first person to walk on the moon.



Two astronauts place a U.S. flag on the moon.



A boy studies a moon rock on display.

After that, other astronauts went on missions to the moon. They collected samples of moon rocks and moon dirt, and they brought their collections back to Earth. Scientists studied the samples. Many people went to look at the moon rocks on display in museums.

Chapter 2

Becoming an Astronaut

It takes a lot of study and hard work to become an astronaut. The men and women who become astronauts must be excellent students. In college, they study math and science. They need to learn all about Earth, other planets, and outer space.

Fun Fact

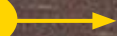
The word *astronaut* means “sailor among the stars.”



Earth



moon



This is what Earth looks like to astronauts on the moon.

Chapter 3

Astronaut Training

After college, astronauts go to special classes to learn more about space flight. They learn about rockets, the stars, and the planets. They learn about their special missions, too. Neil Armstrong and his team of astronauts studied the moon before their special mission. They learned about the rocks they might find there.



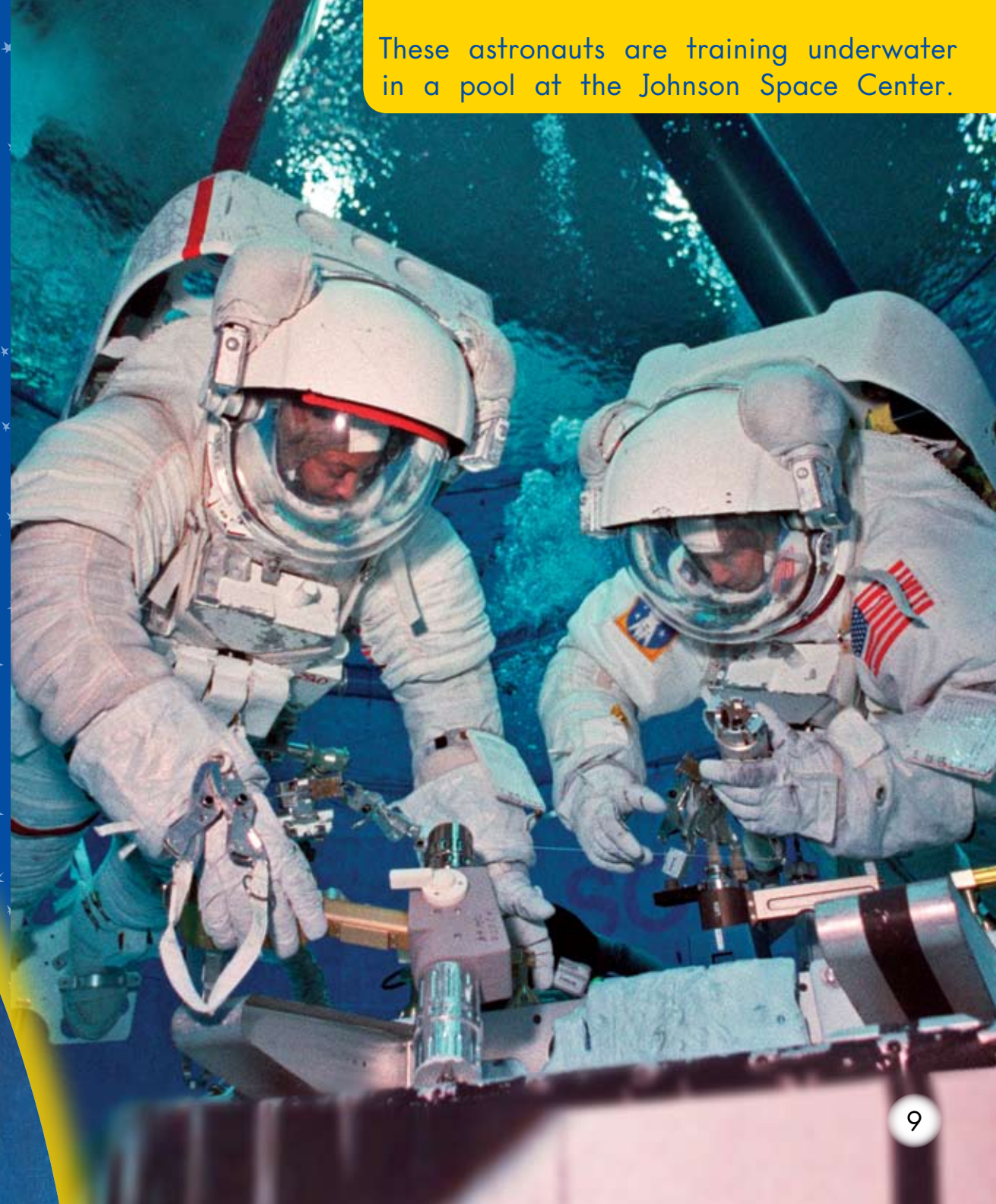
Some astronauts are pilots. They know how to fly airplanes. During their astronaut training, they learn how to fly a spacecraft. They use special models to practice flying the spacecraft.

During training, astronauts learn how to wear a space suit. There is no air in space, so the suit has air tanks to help an astronaut breathe.

The space suit is very big and bulky. An astronaut learns how to move in the suit by going into a pool. Moving around underwater feels like moving around in space.



These astronauts are training underwater in a pool at the Johnson Space Center.



Chapter 4

On the Spacecraft

On Earth, a force called gravity pulls us toward the ground. On the moon and out in space, there is little or no gravity. When the spacecraft flies into space, the things inside float around unless they are tied down.

The astronauts have to eat food from special packages. The packages are tied to a tray, so the food doesn't float away.



An astronaut places packages of food on a special tray.

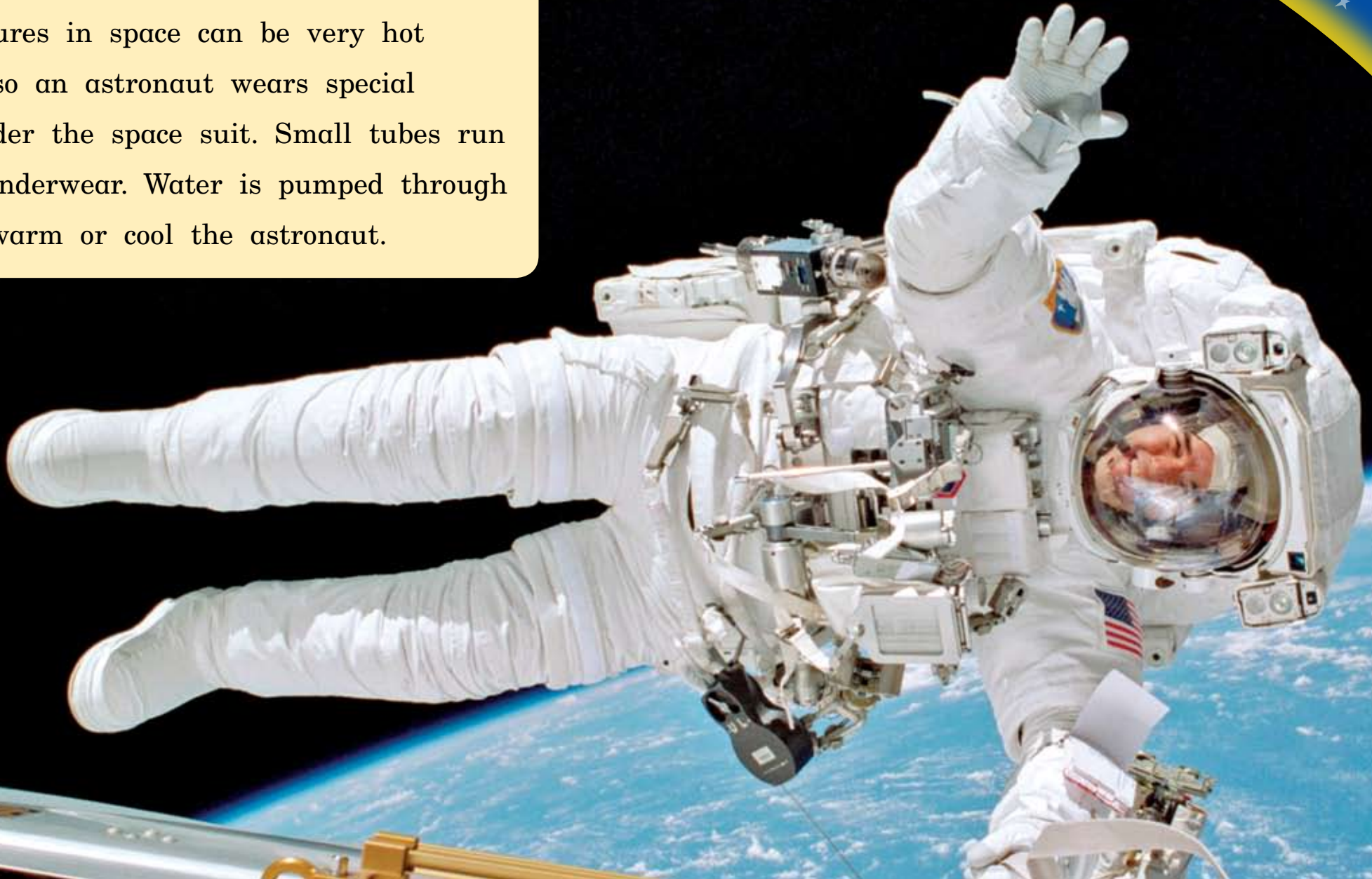


In a spacecraft, three astronauts have fun floating around.

Inside the spacecraft the astronauts float, too, if they are not tied down. When the astronauts want to sleep or exercise, they wear a special strap, like a seat belt, that holds them in place.

Sometimes the astronauts need to do work outside the spacecraft. They put on their space suits and take a space walk.

Temperatures in space can be very hot or very cold, so an astronaut wears special underwear under the space suit. Small tubes run through the underwear. Water is pumped through the tubes to warm or cool the astronaut.



Space Camp

Some kids dream of becoming an astronaut. At Space Camp, kids can train like astronauts do. They dress in space suits and they learn about spacecraft. They even learn how to eat and sleep in space.



Kids at Space Camp learn how to walk and move in space, where there is little or no gravity. They use special chairs that can move forward, backward, or even upside down! They might even practice taking a space walk—but not a real one!

On a spacecraft, each astronaut has a special job to do. Astronauts have to work as a team to complete their mission. At Space Camp, kids learn the importance of teamwork, too. They take turns being in charge of a mission. Someday these kids may become real astronauts!

