

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Yuri Gagarin

Before reading

1 Guess

How much do you know about Yuri Gagarin? Circle the correct answer. If you don't know the answer, guess.

- 1 Gagarin was born in ...
 - a China.
 - b Turkey.
 - c the Soviet Union.
- 2 He was a famous ...
 - a sailor.
 - b cosmonaut.
 - c scientist.
- 3 Gagarin was the ...
 - a first man on the Moon.
 - b second man on the Moon.
 - c first man in space.
- 4 He was ...
 - a 1.57 metres tall.
 - b 1.65 metres tall.
 - c 1.83 metres tall.
- 5 Gagarin went into space in ...
 - a 1955.
 - b 1961.
 - c 1969.
- 6 His spacecraft orbited the Earth ...
 - a once.
 - b twice.
 - c four times.

While reading

2 Comprehension

Read to the section break at the top of page 82 and put these events in the correct order. Write 1–6 in the spaces.

- _____ Gagarin joined the Soviet Air Force.
- _____ Gagarin's family moved to Gzhatsk.
- _____ Gagarin and Valya moved to Star City.
- _____ He became an apprentice in a metal factory.
- _____ Gagarin applied to join the Cosmonaut Training Program.
- _____ He married a lovely girl called Valya.

3 Comprehension

Read to the section break on page 83. Then match the two halves of the sentences.

- 1 Before he climbed into his spacecraft ...
 - 2 The first living creature in space ...
 - 3 Sergei Korolev and his team ...
 - 4 Sputniks 1 and 2 ...
 - 5 Vostok 1 was launched ...
 - 6 The trainers liked Gagarin ...
- a designed Vostok 1.
 - b at the same place as Sputnik 1.
 - c because he was always cheerful.
 - d Gagarin gave a speech.
 - e was a dog called Laika.
 - f were artificial satellites.

4 Comprehension and writing

Read to the end of the story. Rewrite these false sentences so that they are true.

- 1 Gagarin completed two orbits of the Earth.

- 2 He landed exactly at the planned landing place.

- 3 He was wearing a white spacesuit and an orange space helmet.

- 4 Gagarin was killed in a car crash on 7th March 1968.

- 5 The first men to walk on the moon were Russian.

- 6 During his life, Gagarin made several space voyages.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)

Yuri Gagarin

After reading

5 Language

Read the clues and complete the crossword with the words going across. Then look at the letters going down and find the hidden word. Write the word on the line under the clues.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | 2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 4 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | 5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | 8 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 9 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Clues

- Gagarin trained to be this at Star City.
- After leaving school, he became this in a factory.
- A long journey into space or at sea.
- Gagarin used this to come down to Earth.
- He wore this on his head.
- The date of Vostok 1's _____ was 12th April 1961.
- Gagarin became interested in this subject at school.
- An important official who represents his or her country.
- Sputnik 1 was the world's first _____ satellite.
- Gagarin completed this once around the Earth.

Hidden word

What astronauts travel in: _____

6 Follow-up activity

Write your own sentences using each word from the crossword so that the word's meaning is clear. Your sentences can be about the story but you mustn't copy sentences from the story.

7 Playing detective

At the end of his story, Gagarin says, '*Although I only went into space once, I showed the way for others to follow.*'

Do an online search and make a list of different countries' progress in space exploration since Gagarin's death. You can use the websites listed in the 'Further Research' document to help you.

8 Research and speaking

Choose one or more of these people or places mentioned in Gagarin's story. Do an online search and make notes about them. Give a presentation to the class.

- Sergei Korolev
- Valentina Tereshkova
- Neil Armstrong
- The Star City Cosmonaut Training Centre

You can use the 'Further Research' document to find some useful resources.

ANSWER KEY (STUDENT ACTIVITIES)

Yuri Gagarin

1 Guess

- 1 c
- 2 b
- 3 c
- 4 a
- 5 b
- 6 a

2 Comprehension

- 1 Gagarin's family moved to Gzhatsk.
- 2 He became an apprentice in a metal factory.
- 3 Gagarin joined the Soviet Air Force.
- 4 He married a lovely girl called Valya.
- 5 Gagarin applied to join the Cosmonaut Training Program.
- 6 Gagarin and Valya moved to Star City.

3 Comprehension

- 1 d
- 2 e
- 3 a
- 4 f
- 5 b
- 6 c

4 Comprehension and writing

- 1 Gagarin completed one orbit of the Earth.
- 2 He landed almost 300 kilometres from the planned landing place.
- 3 He was wearing an orange spacesuit and a white space helmet.
- 4 Gagarin was killed in a plane crash on 7th March 1968.
- 5 During his life, Gagarin made only one space voyage.

5 Language

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | | | ¹ C | O | S | M | O | N | A | U | T | | |
| | | | ² A | P | P | R | E | N | T | I | C | E | |
| | | ³ V | O | Y | A | G | E | | | | | | |
| ⁴ P | A | R | A | C | H | U | T | E | | | | | |
| | | | ⁵ H | E | L | M | E | T | | | | | |
| ⁶ L | A | U | N | C | H | | | | | | | | |
| | ⁷ A | S | T | R | O | N | O | M | Y | | | | |
| | ⁸ A | M | B | A | S | S | A | D | O | R | | | |
| ⁹ A | R | T | I | F | I | C | I | A | L | | | | |
| ¹⁰ O | R | B | I | V | | | | | | | | | |

Hidden word: SPACECRAFT

6 Follow-up activity

Answers will vary.

7 Playing detective

Answers will vary, depending on which countries you choose to focus on, but findings could include information along the following lines:

- China became the third nation to launch men into space on 15th October 2003. Chinese astronauts are usually referred to as taikonauts.
- Canada has an active core of trained astronauts and eight Canadians have flown in space aboard the US Space Shuttle.
- Europe established the European Space Agency in 1975.

8 Research and speaking

Answers will vary.