

# When Did American Astronauts Explore Space?



Level: C7 Word Count: 69

Little Books of Answers

Curriculum Connection	Space
Content Vocabulary	around, astronaut, Earth, moon, space, spacecraft, three, two, walked, woman
Visual Literacy Element	timeline
Critical Thinking	make an inference from a photo
Comprehension Strategy	recognizing chronological order
High-Frequency Words	an, got, he his, in, into, of, on, out, she, the, their, they, was, went

C7 When Did American Astronauts Explore Space?

## Before Reading

### Prior Knowledge – Discuss the Topic

- Discuss astronauts. Do the students know the name of any astronauts? Do they know that astronauts travel in space, that they go to the International Space Station and then they come back to Earth again? Some astronauts have been to the moon. Explain to the students that the first man in space was a Russian astronaut. Russians call astronauts, cosmonauts. Tell the students that since the first Russian cosmonaut went into space, lots of American astronauts have been into space.

- Give each student a copy of the book *When Did American Astronauts Explore Space?* and read the title with them.
- Invite the students to say which word in the title signals that it's a question. Ask them if they know any other books that start with the same question word.
- Work with the students on setting a purpose for reading the book. Discuss with them that this book tells them the different years that American astronauts went into space. The years are in order. This type of order is called chronological order.
- Discuss the cover photo. Ask questions such as – *What can you see in this photo? What is this astronaut doing? I wonder if the book will tell us who this astronaut is and when he walked in space?*
- Have the students turn to the title page. Ask similar questions to those you asked about the cover photo.

### **Introduce the Vital Vocabulary**

- Ask the students to turn to the Vital Vocabulary.
- Discuss each of the photos and read the labels to the students. Explain that the labels tell them the year that this astronaut went into space. Point out the order of the years from 1961 to 1983.
- Tell the students that the Vital Vocabulary words are in the book. They should look for them as they read.

### **Take a Photo Walk**

- Take a photo walk discussing each photo in the book.
- Read the captions and labels to the students and invite the students to read them with you.
- To extend understanding and vocabulary say things such as – *The captions tell you the names of the astronauts in the photos. Astronauts have to wear special suits to go into space. There is no gravity in space so the astronauts float around. Gravity on Earth is what keeps you from floating around.*
- Discuss the timeline on page 15. Tell the students that they should start at the top where they would start to read a book and follow the arrows to read this timeline. A timeline is another way of showing you the order in which things happened.

## **Read the Book**

- Invite the students to read the title on the cover and title page again.
- Have them read the Vital Vocabulary again, prompting individual students if necessary.
- Remind them that the book will answer the question in the title. They should think about this as they read.
- Have the students read the book aloud independently. Remind them to check with the photos and the text to make sure that what they are reading is correct. Remind them to point to each word as they read if one-to-one matching is not established.
- Move around the group listening and helping individual students as necessary.

## After Reading

### Comprehension

- Check literal comprehension by asking these questions:
  - When did the first American astronaut go into space?*
  - What happened in 1965?*
  - What happened in 1969?*
  - Who was the first American woman astronaut?*
- Check inferential comprehension by asking these questions:
  - Why is the astronaut walking in space attached to a rope?*
  - Why are some astronauts long down?*
  - What else do astronauts need besides a spacesuit?*
  - Why wasn't Sally Ride the first American astronaut to go into space?*
- Revisit the chronological order of the events in the book. Discuss with the students how knowing the order that things happened in adds to their understanding of the text.
- Invite volunteers to choose one of the space photos and ask another question about it, for example, *Why did three astronauts go to the moon?* Have other members of the group answer the question.

### Critical Thinking

- Have the students turn to page 16 and look at the photo. Tell the students that their task is to find out where this astronaut is.

### Fluency

- Invite the students to read the book again with a partner.
- Have the weakest reader in the group reread the book to you.

### Writing

- Have the students draw an astronaut. Have them write a sentence to go with their picture. Tell them to use the book to help with spelling. Assist those students who require extra help.

### Independent Follow-Up Activities

- Have the students complete the photocopiable activities.

# When Did American Astronauts Explore Space?



Level: C7

Name:

Little Books of Answers

Use these words to write a sentence  
under the photo.

to      went      Three      the  
moon.      astronauts



Permission is given to copy for use with the Little Books of Answers series

# When Did American Astronauts Explore Space?



Level: C7

Name:

## Read and Draw

Little Books of Answers

Two astronauts walked on the moon.

This astronaut walked in space.

Permission is given to copy for use with the Little Books of Answers series