

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

Chances are that at least something you wear has Velcro. Velcro is different from zippers, buttons, or laces. Velcro is made with tiny hooks and loops. When you place one side of a Velcro fastener against the other, the tiny loops go around the hooks—and stay there. George de Mestral, a Swiss engineer, invented Velcro. One day in 1948, he noticed that he had burrs on his clothing after a hike. Those burrs gave him an idea for a new kind of fastener—one that would hold things together better than zippers or buttons. At first, nobody took his idea seriously. But de Mestral did not give up. In 1956, he created Velcro and started a business. Today, Velcro is used all over the world. It's even used in the space program!

1. What is this text mostly about?

- (A) the space program
- (B) the life of George de Mestral
- (C) Velcro
- (D) dogs

2. What is **not** true about Velcro?

- (A) It closes things.
- (B) It is made of metal.
- (C) It is used in clothing.
- (D) It is made with hooks and loops.

3. What do context clues tell you about the meaning of *burrs*?

- (A) They are small sticky pieces from a plant.
- (B) They are pieces of yarn.
- (C) They are holes.
- (D) They are raindrops.

4. What does it mean to *fasten* something?

- (A) to buy it
- (B) to close or attach it
- (C) to sew or stitch it
- (D) to finish it

5. What does the phrase *chances are* mean?

- (A) it's likely
- (B) it's impossible
- (C) always
- (D) sometimes

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

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1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

Look at the appliances in your home. How many of them are cordless? Perhaps you have a cordless electric can opener or a cordless vacuum cleaner. If you do, it's because of the space program. When astronauts first started exploring the moon, they wanted to drill into its surface to get samples of the soil and rocks. But they couldn't use appliances with cords because there is no electricity on the moon. So a special kind of drill had to be invented. That drill had to be light but strong. It also had to be cordless. It turned out that cordless tools and appliances were so handy that many companies thought people would want to buy them. Those companies were right. Today, many people have cordless razors and electric toothbrushes. They also have cordless drills. This invention was made for the moon. But it has become just as popular on Earth!

1. Which of these is **not** an *appliance*?

- (A) an electric can opener
 (B) a vacuum cleaner
 (C) an electric razor
 (D) a coffee cup

4. Which is a synonym for *perhaps*?

- (A) maybe
 (B) definitely
 (C) always
 (D) certainly

2. Why do people have cordless tools and appliances?

- (A) because they are large
 (B) because they are heavy
 (C) because they are handy
 (D) because they are expensive

5. Which word describes the tone of this text?

- (A) informative
 (B) inspirational
 (C) funny
 (D) persuasive

3. The suffix *-less* tells you that the word *cordless* means

- (A) without a cord
 (B) plus a cord
 (C) less than a cord
 (D) with a long cord

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DIRECTIONS

Read the text and then answer the questions.

It is important to have smoke detectors in your home. They help to keep you safe. When a smoke detector senses smoke, it sounds a loud alarm. That gives you time to get out of a house or other building if there is a fire. Smoke detectors were invented for the NASA space program. Astronauts have to be safe in their rockets and space stations. They have to know if there are dangerous gases or smoke. So NASA worked with the Honeywell Corporation to invent the modern smoke detector. Today, most people have smoke detectors. In fact, most states have laws that require smoke detectors in buildings. This invention has saved many lives. And it's all because it was needed for the space program!

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

___ / 5

Total

1. Which words would tell a reader more about this text?

- (A) smoke detectors
- (B) space stations
- (C) space program
- (D) dangerous gases

2. Why do astronauts need smoke detectors?

- (A) They have to be safe in their shuttles and space stations.
- (B) They need special food.
- (C) They want to explore the moon.
- (D) They need more room to work.

3. Which part of speech is the word *dangerous*?

- (A) a noun
- (B) an adjective
- (C) a pronoun
- (D) a conjunction

4. Which is a synonym for *invent*?

- (A) purchase
- (B) sell
- (C) write
- (D) create

5. Which phrase could replace *sounds* in the third sentence?

- (A) goes to
- (B) looks like
- (C) gives off
- (D) runs from

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LIFE IN SPACE

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live in space? It's more complicated than you might think. But it's also interesting. The most important thing to remember about living in space is that there is no gravity. That means that astronauts can't do a lot of the things that we take for granted. For example, astronauts can't pour themselves a cup of juice the way you can. Why? Because gravity makes the juice pour from the bottle into your cup. Astronauts can't rely on gravity. Astronauts can't lie on beds and sleep the way you do because gravity is what holds you to your bed.



Astronaut Susan J. Helms

So how do astronauts live in space? Eating in space is like eating on Earth in some ways. Food like rice and mashed potatoes sticks to spoons and forks, so it doesn't float away. Other foods come in cans or packages. So they don't float away, either. But in order to eat, astronauts strap themselves into chairs or use footholds to stay in one place. Meal trays can be strapped to an astronaut's legs or attached to a wall.

What about sleeping? There is no gravity in space, so astronauts do not have to sleep on beds or the floor. They can sleep anywhere they want, and they can sleep in any position they want. They simply strap their sleeping bags to a wall, a seat, or a bunk bed. That way, they don't float around and bump into things while they are asleep.

Do astronauts get to have any fun in space? They certainly do! Astronauts are very busy people. They have jobs to do, and they work hard. But they also need to relax sometimes. Astronauts get to talk to their families on a video call once a week. They also get to stay in touch by email. Astronauts can bring checkers, chess, and other games with them. Some even bring musical instruments. Astronauts also watch movies and news programs. Sometimes they talk to schools and news reporters, too. Astronauts may have a lot of work to do, but they also find time for fun.



Astronaut James S. Voss

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

DIRECTIONS

Read "Life in Space" and then answer the questions.

1. Which of these is a topic sentence?

- (A) They have jobs to do, and they work hard.
- (B) Astronauts may have a lot of work to do, but they also find time for fun.
- (C) Astronauts also watch movies and news programs.
- (D) Astronauts can bring checkers, chess, and other games with them.

2. Which of these questions is **not** answered in this text?

- (A) How do astronauts eat in space?
- (B) How do astronauts sleep in space?
- (C) How do astronauts relax in space?
- (D) How do astronauts do their work?

3. Which question reflects an appropriate purpose for reading?

- (A) How can I go in space?
- (B) What is life in space really like?
- (C) How long is the flight to space?
- (D) Where is space?

4. The author likely feels that astronauts are

- (A) interesting.
- (B) unkind.
- (C) scary.
- (D) not real.

5. Which do astronauts **not** need in space?

- (A) a place to sleep
- (B) food
- (C) umbrellas
- (D) toothpaste

6. Why do you think chairs and tables are attached to the floors and walls in space stations?

- (A) so they will not break
- (B) so they will not tip over
- (C) so they will not float around
- (D) so they will stay clean

7. How is life in space different from life on Earth?

- (A) There is no gravity in space.
- (B) There is a lot of gravity in space.
- (C) There is no gravity on Earth.
- (D) Astronauts do not like to be in space.

8. Which statement about living in space is most accurate?

- (A) Living in space would be like living on Earth.
- (B) Living in space would be impossible.
- (C) Living in space would be different because there is no gravity.
- (D) Living in space would not be much fun.

SCORE

1. (Y) (N)

2. (Y) (N)

3. (Y) (N)

4. (Y) (N)

5. (Y) (N)

6. (Y) (N)

7. (Y) (N)

8. (Y) (N)

___ / 8

Total

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DIRECTIONS

Reread the text “Life in Space.” Then, read the prompt and respond on the lines below.

SCORE

___ / 4

Pretend you are an astronaut. What would your day be like? Write about your day.
