



Cookies to Be Baked on ISS for the First Time

What is the International Space Station (ISS)?

- The ISS is a spacecraft that orbits the Earth. It's a place where astronauts carry out research.
- At night time, you can even see it hurtling across the sky. NASA says it takes 90 minutes to complete one orbit of our planet.

“Houston, we have cookie dough!” Yes, you heard correctly. Astronauts will be trying to make chocolate-chipped cookies on the International Space Station (ISS)!

An oven and cookie dough are being sent on a [spacecraft](#). It set off from NASA's Wallops Island spaceport in Virginia, USA, on Saturday.

The oven is not the only thing that is being delivered to the ISS! The spacecraft is also taking parts of a sports car and a vest to protect against [radiation](#).

The ISS is a spacecraft that [orbits](#) the Earth. It's a place where astronauts research space, with scientists coming from all over the world to work on the station.

At night time, you can even see it hurtling across the sky. Since 2000, there have always been scientists working there.

It may sound strange but baking cookies is actually a really important experiment for NASA.

The space agency wants to know if it's possible to bake fresh food in space.

This will be the first time that anyone has done this. Scientists will be looking to see how the cookies come out and how they taste.

Conditions in space make it difficult to cook. Firstly, there's zero gravity. Gravity is the force that keeps us grounded literally on Earth. So it will be interesting to see the challenges that astronauts have to overcome to bake them.

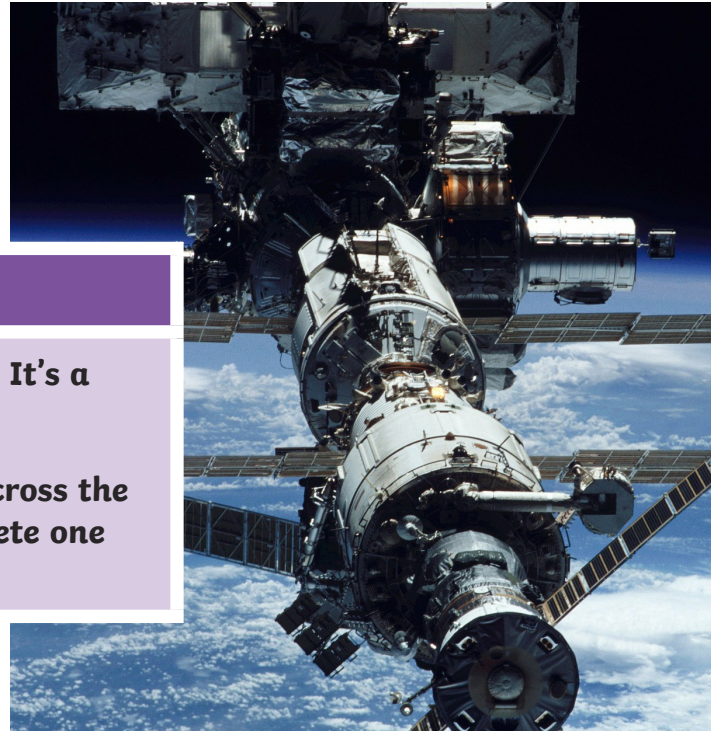


Photo: Astronauts will bake cookies on the ISS.

The oven won't just be used to make cookies if it's successful. It will be used to cook meals for astronauts when they're on long missions in space.

NASA has some ambitious plans for space exploration. As part of a project called Artemis, it wants to go back to the Moon by 2024 and then Mars.

The spacecraft is expected to reach the ISS on Monday. Who knows what the cookies will look and taste like?

Let's just hope they're as tasty in space as they are on Earth!

Glossary

NASA	US National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
spacecraft	A vehicle that is used in space.
radiation	The emission of electromagnetic waves which cause a chemical reaction.
orbits	When something travels around another object in space.

Questions

1. Find and copy three facts about the spacecraft that's delivering the cookie dough.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

2. 'NASA has some ambitious plans for space exploration.'

Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'ambitious'.

challenging

easy

simple

unexciting

3. Gravity is an important force. Find a piece of evidence that supports this statement.

4. Do you think the experiment will be successful? Explain your answer.

5. How do you think the author feels about this story? Explain your answer.

6. Summarise the story in 20 words.

Answers

1. Find and copy three facts about the spacecraft that's delivering the cookie dough.
Accept any three from the following: it set off from NASA's Wallops Island spaceport in Virginia, USA on Saturday; the spacecraft is also taking parts of a sports car and a vest to protect against radiation; it's taking cookie dough; it will arrive on Monday.
2. 'NASA has some ambitious plans for space exploration.'
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'ambitious'.
 - challenging**
 - easy
 - simple
 - unexciting
3. Gravity is an important force. Find a piece of evidence that supports this statement.
Gravity is the force that keeps us grounded literally on Earth.
4. Do you think the experiment will be successful? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think the experiment will be successful because NASA will have carefully researched this and they are planning further explorations into space.
5. How do you think the author feels about this story? Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think the author is really interested in this story because they say it's 'a really important experiment for NASA'.
6. Summarise the story in 20 words.
Accept any reasonable summary that refers to the story and is 20 words or fewer, e.g. NASA has sent an oven to see if astronauts can make fresh food in space.