

Lesson Plan

On the ISS

Book: *Ellen Ochoa: Astronaut*

Series: Important Women

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice identifying key details in a text about the International Space Station.

Supplies

- *Ellen Ochoa: Astronaut* book
- Access to the NASA “What Is the International Space Station?” web page:
<https://www.nasa.gov/audience/forstudents/k-4/stories/nasa-knows/what-is-the-iss-k4.html>
- On the ISS worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Read through the *Ellen Ochoa: Astronaut* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print out a copy of the On the ISS worksheet for each student, or email it to students.

Activity

Ellen Ochoa was one of the astronauts who helped build the International Space Station (ISS). Students should read the “What Is the International Space Station?” article and fill out the worksheet to learn more about the ISS.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets. Use the attached answer key to award students up to 15 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards’ reading standards for informational text, grade 3 (RI 3.1, 3.2, 3.3).

On the ISS

1. (3 points) The International Space Station (ISS) is a _____ that orbits Earth, a _____ for astronauts, and a _____ for research.
2. (1 point) How high above Earth does the ISS orbit?
3. (2 points) How many years did it take to build the ISS?
4. (1 point) When did people first start living on the ISS?
5. (1 point) How many people can live on the ISS?
6. (1 point) True or False: Astronauts use airlocks to go outside on spacewalks.
7. (1 point) True or False: Astronauts first arrive at the space station at nodes.
8. (1 point) How does the space station make electricity?
9. (2 points) What are two things that people learn on the ISS?
10. (2 points) How does NASA plan to use this information in the future?

On the ISS Answer Key

1. (3 points) The International Space Station (ISS) is a spacecraft that orbits Earth, a home for astronauts, and a space lab for research.

2. (1 point) How high above Earth does the ISS orbit?

Approximately 250 miles above Earth

3. (2 points) How many years did it take to build the ISS?

14 years (from 1998 to 2011)

4. (1 point) When did people first start living on the ISS?

November 2, 2000

5. (1 point) How many people can live on the ISS?

Six people

6. (1 point) True or False: Astronauts use airlocks to go outside on spacewalks.

True

7. (1 point) True or False: Astronauts first arrive at the space station at nodes.

False

8. (1 point) How does the space station make electricity?

Solar arrays on the sides of the ISS turn sunlight into electricity.

9. (2 points) What are two things that people learn on the ISS?

People learn what happens to humans when they live in space and how to keep a spacecraft working for a long time.

10. (2 points) How does NASA plan to use this information in the future?

NASA plans to send humans deeper into space than ever before.