

A Trip Into Space

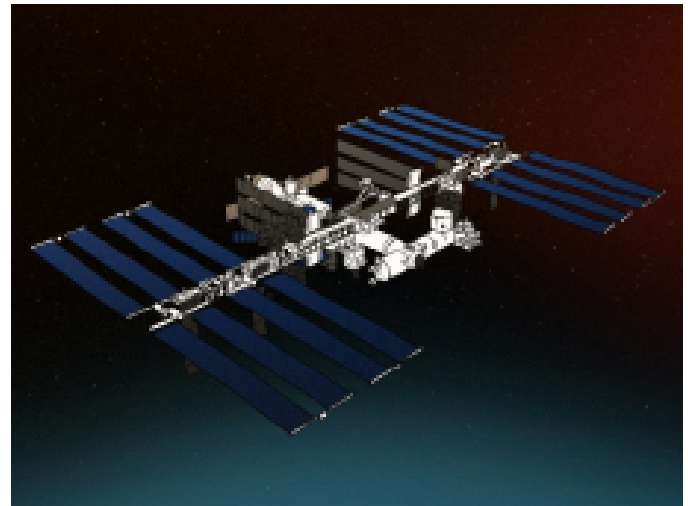
Yesterday, 10 year old Sam Williams returned from space. He is the first child to have made the exciting trip. Will he be the first of many?

On 22nd June 2016 Sam Williams set off from Florida USA on a mission to the International Space Station. On board were three other **astronauts** and they had all undergone **extensive** training in preparation for their Space experience.

Sam was selected for this trip after entering a newspaper competition. The judges were **astounded** by Sam's knowledge of Space and knew straight away that he was the perfect child for the mission.

Using the new and updated launch process it took Sam and the three astronauts just six hours to reach the International Space Station. Sam said that he was **flabbergasted** at how quickly they got there. "I always thought that flying to space would take days, but actually it only takes the amount of hours in one school day. Unbelievable!"

Sam was extremely busy while he was on the Space Station. He helped to **operate** many of the science experiments. He also had to make sure that the Space Station stayed in top shape, so he had to clean, check equipment, maintain and help repair broken equipment. It was also important for Sam to stay healthy while he was on the Space Station; he did this by spending a few hours each day



The International Space Station

exercising, which kept his muscles and bones fit and healthy while he was on board.

The Space Station travels through space at 17,500 miles per hour at an **altitude** of about 220 miles. While Sam was on board he **orbited** the Earth about once every 90 minutes. During each orbit he was in daylight for about 45 minutes and darkness for about 45 minutes. Sam explained to us that from Earth we are able to see the Space Station at certain times (for more information look online).

Sam spent ten days on the Space Station and is now even more obsessed with the wonders of Space than he was before his magical trip. He said that he is now 100% sure on what job he would like to do when he grows up. Can you guess what he said?

Sam has decided that he will now be able to teach his classmates back at his primary school in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, all about Space. He plans to talk about the wonders of the Earth, Sun and Moon from his first hand experience.

Here is some information for those who might be interested in following in Sam's footsteps:

The Earth travels around the Sun. The Moon travels around the Earth. The Earth spins on its **axis** and this causes day and night.

The Earth is round, like a ball, but it is also slightly squashed. It is almost **spherical**. It takes one year for the Earth to travel around the Sun. The Earth's axis is an imaginary line which runs through the centre of the Earth from the North Pole to the South Pole. It takes 24 hours for it to spin once, which gives us daylight and darkness. When one part of the Earth is facing the sun, it is day on that part of the Earth. It will be night on the part of the Earth which is not facing the sun.

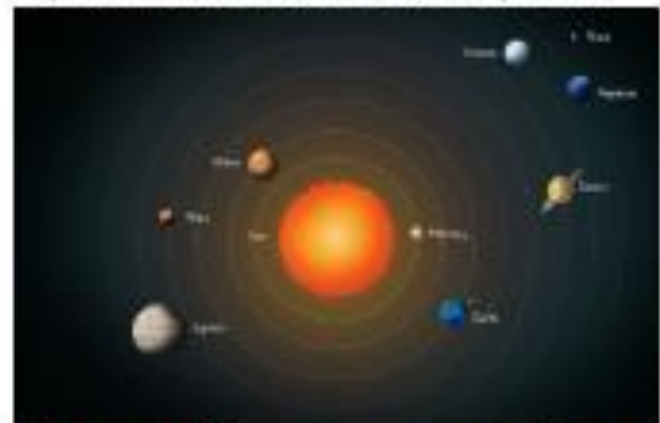


The Moon is also roughly spherical, like the Earth, but it is a lot smaller. The Moon travels around the Earth and it takes about 28 days for this to happen (one month).

We can only see part of the Moon that is lit by the Sun. Therefore, sometimes we see the whole of the Moon and sometimes we can only see part of it.

The Sun is actually a star, not a planet. Again, it is almost spherical in shape. However, it is much, much bigger than the Earth.

The Earth is one of eight planets that travel around the Sun. The other planets are called Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.



If this article has got you excited about Space, please watch tonight's special space programme online at 6pm. We will also be opening a new competition to send the next school-aged child into Space.

Sam would like to take this opportunity to thank the Space Programme, the astronauts who went into space with him and all the other people involved in his mission. "It will be something that I never forget. The best 10 days of my life!"

To find out more, please visit our website: www.takemetospace.co.uk

Reported by Lisa Wheatley