



- The International Space Station (ISS) is one of the largest ever space crafts. It is used to carry out experiments in space and from there observations of life on Earth can also be carried out.
- Up to six astronauts live and work on board the ISS at any one time.
- It travels at a speed of 17,000 miles per hour. It orbits the Earth once every 90 minutes and communicates with Earth using satellites.
- Construction began in 1988 when parts of the space station were flown out into space where they were built. Once completed, it was designed to measure the same length as a football pitch.
- The ISS is powered by solar panels that use the Sun's energy to make electricity.
- It has a docking station, a living area where astronauts eat and sleep and some on board laboratories where experiments are carried out.

### Did you know...

- that when the astronauts go to bed they have to strap themselves in? This is so that they don't end up floating about all night!
- They also have to wear special space suits when they leave the station to go on a spacewalk. Without these suits they wouldn't survive!
- However, they don't need their space suits while on board the ISS. They can float about happily inside the ISS all day long!

