#### A Day on the International Space Station

A We Both Read<sup>®</sup> Book Level 2

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Astronauts float even while sleeping.

# Good Morning, Earth

Here on Earth we usually sleep at night and get out of bed when the sun comes up in the morning. However, an **astronaut** on the International Space Station doesn't sleep only at night, and the sun doesn't come up only once a day. When you are orbiting high above Earth, traveling over 17,000 miles an hour, the sun rises every 90 minutes!

Straps hold their sleeping bags in place.

Astronauts go to sleep in their own little bedrooms. When they live in space, this is their home away from home. These astronauts have a busy day. It's time to get out of bed!



### What Is the International Space Station?

The International Space Station is a large spacecraft that orbits **Earth**. For many years, astronauts have lived and worked there. Many countries worked together to build this giant science laboratory. Including the solar panels, the **space station** is the size of a football field. It flies about 250 miles above Earth. That's over 30 times higher than most airplanes fly!



Size of space station compared to a football field

At night, you might see the space station moving across the sky. From here on Earth it looks like a bright star.

When this astronaut looks down at Earth, she can see water, land, and clouds. At night, she can see lights below.

Each cluster of bright lights is a city on Earth.

> Space station solar panel



#### © Earlier Space Stations

Even before humans went into space, scientists started designing a "space platform" where astronauts could live and work. An early design looked like a big wheel, but it was never actually built.

**Russia** built the first space station. It was called Salyut (SAL-yoot). It was launched in 1971. In 1973, the **United States** created **Skylab**, which stayed in orbit for six years. Ge Then the **United States** and **Russia** teamed up with others to build a new space station. They wanted to make the biggest and best space station ever built.



The pieces of the International Space Station have been put together in space.

## ᢙ Modules and Nodes on the International Space Station

The International Space Station is made up of **modules** and **nodes**. **Modules** are like rooms. **Nodes** connect the larger modules together. It is all put together like a giant toy construction set.

Each piece has many openings, called *hatches*, which can connect to the other pieces. There are **modules** that are living spaces, storage units, research labs, and equipment modules.



A module is about the size of a school bus. Nodes are much smaller. Besides modules and nodes, there are also docks. A dock is where visiting astronauts park their spaceships.