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Grade 9 Astronomy

This assignment is the result of 2 classes full of kids who knew VERY little to nothing about the Canadian Space Agency and the Canadian astronauts. Most students seemed to enjoy this activity and it even sparked some students' interests in becoming astronauts!



SO YOU WANNA BE AN ASTRONAUT????

Part 1: Internet Scavenger Hunt:

- 1) When was the CSA (the Canadian Space Agency) formed?
- 2) Who was the first Canadian astronaut in space?
- 3) Who was the first female Canadian astronaut in space?
- 4) How has the CSA contributed to NASA's space exploration?
- 5) How many Canadian astronauts were there to begin with?
- 6) How many Canadian astronauts are there now?



Part 2: Astronaut Biography:

Here is a list of all Canadian astronauts, past and present...

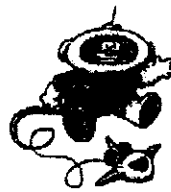
Roberta Bondar
Marc Garneau
Steve MacLean
Ken Money
Julie Payette

Bob Thirsk
Bjarni Tryggvason
Chris Hadfield
Mike McKay
Dave Williams

Choose one of these astronauts and write a biography about their space adventures. Try to answer the following questions:

- 1) How did they become an astronaut?
- 2) What missions have they been on? What duties did they perform on these missions?
- 3) What is their educational background? How does their background make them a good candidate for being an astronaut?
- 4) What type of work experience did they have before becoming an astronaut?





Part 3: Your space adventure!

CONGRATULATIONS!!! You have been chosen by the CSA (Checkley's Space Agency) to be the first student ambassador astronaut! Lucky you! Even more exciting is that you get to choose where you want to go and what you would like to do when you get there! Would you like to go to the moon or a planet? Or maybe an asteroid or the ISS? What type of research would you perform? How would your research benefit us measly Earthlings?

Answer these questions in as much detail as possible and keep in mind, that your mission doesn't need to be realistic.

Design an individual mission patch (drawn and colored) that would represent yourself and the mission you hope to accomplish. Include a paragraph explaining your mission patch and the details you chose to include.



Part 4: Becoming an astronaut (OPTIONAL)

This part of the assignment is bonus and it is your decision whether you complete it or not. If your mark is not as high as you'd hope, I strongly suggest you complete this section...

Now, assume that you want to be an astronaut when you grow up. What requirements do you need to become one? What type of schooling do you need? What type of experience do you need?

Research and explain the requirements needed to become an astronaut at NASA or the CSA.



