

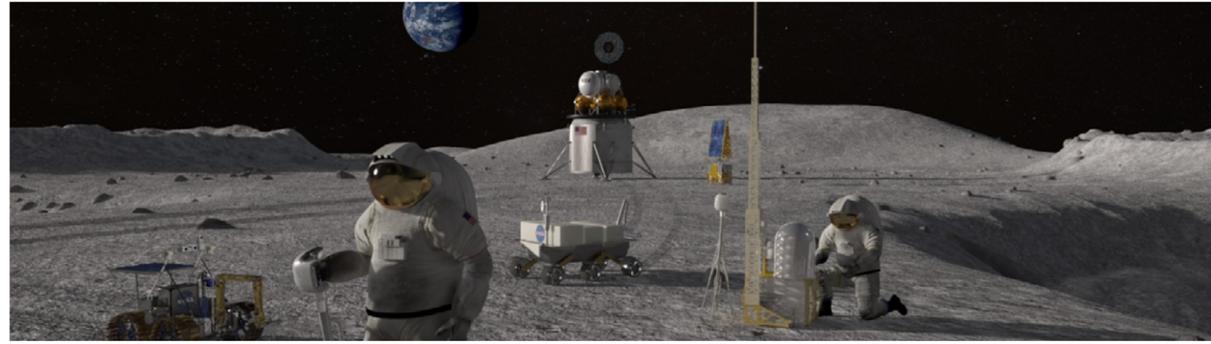
NASA: How; What; Why”?

By Carter Sand

NASA spends about \$22.5 billion each year on its space program. Since 1958 NASA has been creating marvelous ways to get to space and continuing to learn from experiments conducted in the International Space Station. NASA has been around for 62 years and they have hit many milestones. NASA also built an entire laboratory in space with the help of space shuttles. They have also been building and launching rockets. NASA is pretty awesome.

The Space Shuttle Program was a great way to launch American astronauts from American soil. The Space Shuttle is a spaceship that lands like an airplane when it comes back to earth. Former astronaut Bob Crippen describes the shuttle as “one of the most marvelous vehicles that has ever gone into space or done anything.” NASA built 5 Space Shuttles that were all named after famous Scientific sailing ships. Columbia launched first, then Challenger in 1983, Discovery in 1984, and Atlantis in 1985. Endeavour debuted in 1992. A prototype, Enterprise, was also built and flown in glide tests in 1977. The shuttles carried a total of 852 people to and from space. The Space Shuttle was about 185 ft tall/ long and weighed about 7.8 million pounds. The Space Shuttle had a large robotic arm inside the cabin. Its sole purpose was to build the space station and fix satellites and take them back to earth if they were not salvageable. When the International Space Station (ISS) was completed, the Space Shuttle was no longer needed.

Rockets are the key to NASA’s space program. Rockets are quite simple, but they sure are expensive. Rockets are made up of five components. The first one is cargo or something



to carry like supplies or people. The second and third things are fuel and air. The rocket needs the air in order to burn the fuel. The fourth and fifth components are a place for the hot stuff to come out and a way to steer. All rockets have boosters at the bottom and most of the boosters can move in order to steer. Rockets weigh about 9 million pounds and most of them are taller than the statue of liberty. Rockets are the only way to get to space. Without the power and force that a rocket generates, people would not be able to leave the planet. Rockets are extremely simple yet important.

The International Space Station (ISS) is the most expensive and complex creation ever made. The ISS is a giant laboratory in space that orbits the earth. The ISS is a football field long and it cost about \$100 billion. The station has had astronauts living in it since it has been around. It orbits the Earth sixteen times a day at 17,500 miles per hour. Because it has people living on it 24/7, NASA sends supply shipments up to the station every few months with food, water, oxygen and other supplies. The ISS is used to make awesome discoveries about our planet. The ISS helps people on Earth learn more about microgravity and weightlessness. Many items we use in everyday life like cameras, light bulbs, and shoes, were all created

thanks to NASA. The ISS is an important part of this age of discovery that we live in.

NASA is always improving our knowledge about our planet and space travel. NASA made a great advancement when they created the space shuttle program. NASA learned the pros and cons of reusable space vehicles and how to repair things in space. NASA also has designed Rockets that have been flying high since 1926 and they are a key component in space travel. The ISS is an amazing accomplishment as well. NASA has truly accomplished the impossible.

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