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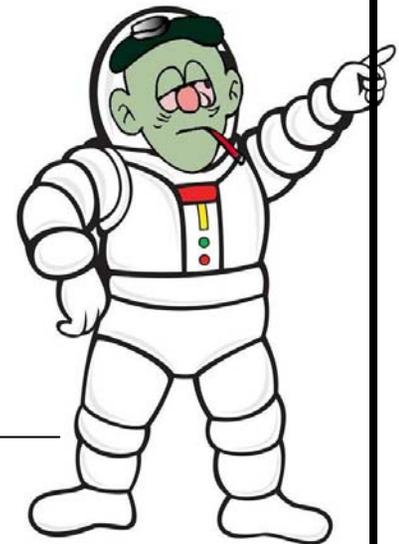
# Sick in Space?

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the article. Answer the questions.

Astronauts have to go through a lot of screening to make sure that they are healthy before they are allowed to go up into space. But what happens if one of the astronauts get sick while they're up there? On the Apollo VII mission all of the astronauts got head colds. Just like you do when you're sick here on earth, they got quite cranky, and being sick made it hard for them to do their jobs. This doesn't happen often, but there is always the possibility of astronauts getting sick in space, since they are in a confined space, breathing recirculated air, and touching the same surfaces over and over again—all ways that viruses are passed between humans.

Every astronaut on the Space Shuttle has a special role to play, and gets a lot of training to make sure they can perform their specialized duties. The person in charge of any medical emergencies is called the Crew Medical Officer. The Crew Medical Officer is trained to handle all sorts of health crises. He or she can give basic first aid treatments. They can also give stitches and shots. And all of the astronauts know how to give CPR should one of the astronauts have a heart attack.

The Space Shuttle has a medical kit that includes many instruments and medicines. This kit is used to treat minor illnesses and injuries. It also includes things that can be used to stabilize a sick astronaut during the flight back to earth.



1. What happened on the Apollo VII mission? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why might it be easy to get sick on the Space Shuttle? \_\_\_\_\_  
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3. Who is the Crew Medical Officer and what does he or she do? \_\_\_\_\_  
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