

SPACE TOURISM



How many people do you think are in space right now? Would you like to be one of them?

You have probably seen science fiction films where people travel in space as easily as taking a plane ride. Soon, this could be a reality. One company is planning to launch a space hotel in the next 10 years. It will be a bit like a cruise ship, but passengers will spin around Earth rather than sail across the seas.



Perhaps the space hotel will look like this.


While we are waiting for space hotels to be ready, it is possible to book a 10- to 90-minute trip to space. You don't need to be an astronaut (*that takes 10 years*). You just need two days' training. You will learn what to do in an emergency on the spacecraft, and you will also have a chance to get used to feeling weightless. (*It is a very strange feeling at first!*)



Did you know?

On Earth, gravity keeps us on the ground. There is no gravity in space so we feel weightless.





You will be able to see the view from the window change from blue to black (*that is space!*) and see Earth from above. Plus, you will unbuckle your seatbelt and float for a short time.



The bad news is, it costs nearly **half a million US dollars** to take a 90-minute trip to space so it is only for the super-rich right now. In the early days of plane travel, it was the same. Now you don't have to be very wealthy to travel on a plane. So one day, it is likely that space travel will be more affordable.



Do you agree that anyone can travel to space for leisure? Why or why not?

Circle the best answer and give short answers.

1 For half a million US dollars, you can take a trip to space lasting ____ .

A. ten minutes

B. 1.5 hours

C. nine hours

2 How many days of training do you need before taking a trip to space?

3 Why might a holiday in space be a reality in about ten years?

Because _____

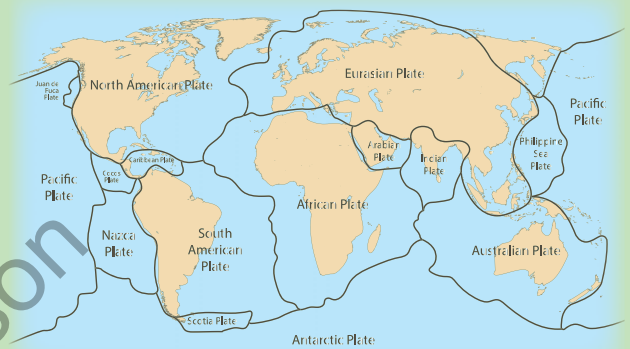
EARTHQUAKE

Have you ever wondered what an earthquake feels like?

A large earthquake that is close by feels like strong shaking. It can last from a few seconds to a couple of minutes. It will be difficult to stand up and there will be a lot of damage. If it is small and far away, you probably won't feel it at all. But you might if you are still and sitting down.



What causes earthquakes?



The surface of the earth is like a jigsaw puzzle with about 20 pieces. These are called Tectonic plates. They move all the time, but very slowly. Sometimes they bump into or slide past one another. This causes an earthquake.

Where do earthquakes happen?

Earthquakes are more likely to hit some places than others. In fact, 90 percent of all earthquakes occur in the **Ring of Fire**.

Japan, Indonesia and New Zealand, for example, are all located in the Ring of Fire. All have suffered terrible earthquakes in recent years.



What about tsunamis?

When a big earthquake happens underwater, it can cause a **tsunami** — a very powerful wave that races across the ocean at up to 970 kilometres per hour*. By the time a tsunami reaches land, it can be 35 metres high#.

These huge waves can cause terrible damage to villages and towns near the sea. They can knock down buildings and trees and cause flooding.



* a plane travels at 250 km per hour
as high as a 10-storey building



What to do in an earthquake

If you are indoors:



Stay away from windows if you can and don't move until the shaking stops.

If you are outdoors:

Find a spot away from buildings, trees and streetlights. Drop to the ground and stay there.

What to do in a tsunami

In a tsunami, move to a high open place as quickly as you can.



Do some research to find out about a recent earthquake. How can we help the victims?

Are these sentences true (✓) or false (X)? Circle.

- Earthquakes can be big or small. ✓ / X
- The earth has about twenty Tectonic plates. ✓ / X
- Tectonic plates cannot move. ✓ / X
- A tsunami is an underwater earthquake. ✓ / X
- If a tsunami hits, go to a higher floor of a building. ✓ / X

Once Upon A Time

How many stories have you read that start with the words 'Once upon a time'?
Probably quite a few!

These stories are called **fairy tales**. They often have magic, and characters like princesses, witches, giants and talking animals. They might have a fairy in them, but they might not. Many fairy tales are very old. People told them to one another before there was writing or books.

You probably know the story of *Cinderella* with the ugly stepsisters, the glass slipper and the handsome prince. Cinderella leaves her glass slipper behind at a ball and the prince searches for its beautiful owner.



Red Riding Hood is another old fairy tale. We don't know who first thought of it. People probably told it to children so they would stay out of the woods. There were dangerous animals in there!



Many of us are very familiar with the fairy tale *Sleeping Beauty*. This story is at least 900 years old. A princess has a spell on her that makes her sleep for 100 years. Only the prince can awaken Sleeping Beauty with a kiss.



Two German brothers, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, wrote their own version of these and many other fairy tales, including *Hansel and Gretel* and *Snow White*.



Compared to these traditional fairy tales, there are more 'recent' fairy tales too! Hans Christian Andersen (1805–1875) wrote over a hundred of them. His most famous stories include *The Little Mermaid*, *The Ugly Duckling* and *The Emperor's New Clothes*.

A FAIRY TALE ENDING?

In real life, we say that someone has 'a fairy tale ending' when something great happens. Maybe they fall in love or a dream comes true. But in fact, not all fairy tales have a happy ending! In the original version of *Red Riding Hood*, the wolf eats Red Riding Hood. Hans Christian Andersen wrote some rather sad fairy tales too. In *The Little Mermaid*, the mermaid dies of a broken heart. 'Happily ever after' does not always happen!



What is your favourite fairy tale? What do you like about it?

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Write 'T' or 'F'.

- All fairy tales contain magic.
- Fairy tales existed before writing.
- The Brothers Grimm wrote *Snow White*.
- Hans Christian Andersen wrote *The Little Mermaid*.

