

Name: _____

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What Is NASA?

Would you like to be an explorer? Would you like to help with future missions to other planets and outer space? Then maybe you should work for NASA. NASA is an acronym. An acronym is a word formed from the first letters of other words. N.A.S.A. stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration. NASA is in charge of exploring space.



This U.S. agency was started in 1958. At that time, the United States and the Soviet Union were in a space race. Each country wanted to be the first to explore space and to put a man on the moon. The Soviet Union won a victory on September 13, 1959. Its *Luna 2* was the first man-made object to land on the moon. NASA won the final victory on July 20, 1969, when the astronauts from *Apollo 11* were the first people to walk on the moon.

NASA has ten centers all over the United States. There are also seven other test and research centers. Thousands of people work for NASA. Astronauts are only a few of the people who work for NASA. Engineers and scientists work there, too. Writers, lawyers, secretaries, and teachers also work for NASA. These people help with the many jobs that NASA does. Satellites made by NASA help scientists learn more about the Earth. Space probes help them learn about the moon and other planets. Scientists who work at NASA study things in the solar system and in the universe beyond our solar system. NASA shares the things it learns with others.

In the future, NASA hopes to build an outpost on the moon. This outpost would help us learn about living on other planets or moons. It would help other space travelers go even farther into the solar system.

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Questions

1. Who works for NASA? Name at least three jobs.

2. What does NASA stand for?

- A. National Air and Space Administration
- B. National Aeronautics and Space Agency
- C. National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- D. National Airlines and Space Agency

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3. A word formed from the first letters of other words is called _____.

- A. a metaphor
- B. an acronym
- C. an antonym
- D. a synonym

4. Which of these is NOT something NASA has done?

- A. study things in the solar system and in the universe beyond
- B. built an outpost on the moon
- C. sent the first people to walk on the moon
- D. built satellites to learn more about the Earth

5. What was the name of the first man-made object to land on the moon?
