



International Space Station

The International Space Station (ISS) is a large spacecraft in orbit approximately 250 miles above Earth. It was built collaboratively by many different countries who take turns sending astronauts into space to live and work there. The ISS is modular, which means that it is made of many separate pieces. These pieces were sent into space separately and assembled there by astronauts. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) use the ISS as a science lab where they learn about living and working in space. Russia, Japan, and Europe also have science labs there.

The first piece of the ISS was launched by a Russian rocket in 1998. Over the next two years, additional pieces were added. Rotating crews have lived on the ISS since the first crew arrived on November 2nd, 2000. Construction on the ISS was finished in 2011. Fully assembled, the ISS weighs almost a million pounds.

The ISS is about the size of a five-bedroom house and houses six astronauts at a time. It contains two bathrooms, a gymnasium, and a large window. It covers the same area as a football field, including the end zones.

1. How many astronauts live on the ISS at a time?
2. Which country built the ISS?
3. How was the ISS assembled?
4. What do the astronauts do on the ISS?
5. How big is the ISS?