# 3rd Grade Informational: Astronauts

**Task Prompt:** Write an informational article on astronauts using information and details from the sources. Use your own words except when quoting directly from the sources.

**Astronaut**

Have you ever thought about what it's like to be an astronaut? You might think that it would be a lot of fun but going into space is very hard. There is a lot of work to do before you go actually go to space. Before you become an astronaut, you have to be educated. Astronauts go to school for 12 years, then go to college for 4 years, and after that they study for two years or more. That's 18 years in total! Can you imagine that?

After school, there's training. These pre-astronauts will train for hundreds of hours to become an astronaut! They will learn what it is like to be in the International Space Station (ISS) and they will ride in vehicles made for space. They will also take scuba diving lessons because the feeling of being in a suit underwater is very similar to the feeling in space. Another thing they do in the training is get jobs. Some of the jobs are being a medical person so in case someone gets hurt or sick they can be healed, being a fixer so if the ship breaks down or catches on fire they can try to fix it, a pilot who can fly the rocket, a leader to make sure everyone does their job, and a scientist who can study how living things such as plants and animals survive in space.

Finally, it's time to blast off into space. This is a once in a lifetime event. You might be saying "Yay! Yippee! This is the fun part!" You are right and wrong if you said that. Being in space may be fun but is also very dangerous. When you are in space you feel as if you weigh nothing. You float around the spaceship. This is not good for your body. Your blood flows up to your head. Your head and neck gets puffy and your legs get small and thin. This condition is called "bird legs". Your mustles don't work hard and get wink and shrink. When you get back to earth it is

hard to stand because you are weak. You have to adjust. That means that when you are in space you have to excersize. The use big rubber bands and they stretch in them in different ways.

Being in space is fun also because you can see everything on earth. Maybe when you grow up you will be an astronaut, too.