

# THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION



Mr Chicken dropped into the International Space Station (ISS) and joined Bernice for lunch. The International Space Station (ISS) is a marvel of modern science and engineering, representing a powerful example of international collaboration in space exploration. Launched into orbit in 1998, the ISS has been home to astronauts and cosmonauts from around the world, serving as a space environment research laboratory where scientific research is conducted in astrobiology, astronomy, meteorology, physics, and other fields.

Orbiting Earth at an average altitude of approximately 420 kilometres (about 261 miles), the ISS travels at a speed that allows it to circle the planet roughly every 90 minutes. Over the years, it has been a base for astronauts from 19 different countries, supported by space agencies like NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).

The ISS is not just a hub for scientific research but also a beacon of international cooperation. It has been developed and operated by multiple nations, each contributing modules and support for its construction and ongoing maintenance. As the ISS ages, discussions about its future are ongoing, with potential plans including commercial management or even replacement by more modern facilities.

1. What is the primary function of the International Space Station?

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2. When was the ISS first launched into orbit?

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3. How often does the ISS orbit Earth?

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4. Name three space agencies involved in the support and operation of the ISS.

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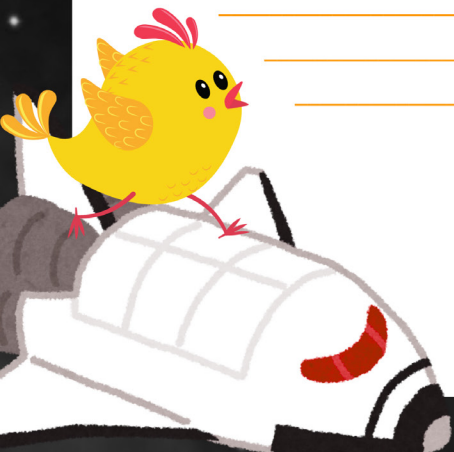
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5. What makes the ISS a unique example of international cooperation?

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Uses comprehension strategies to expand content knowledge.

