


## How We Promote Reading in Maths

In addition to reading questions provided in class as well as for homework, reading is promoted through the use of mathematical comprehensions which discuss the history and applications of maths in the real world. Staff read the text aloud with students, discuss unfamiliar words, and ask students to answer questions based upon the text which are later reviewed.

 **Pearson** Year 7 Term 3 Astronomy

### First person in space

**Yuri Gagarin**, in full **Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin**, (born March 9, 1934, near Gzhatsk, Russia, U.S.S.R. [now Gagarin, Russia]—died March 27, 1968, near Moscow), Soviet cosmonaut who in 1961 became the first man to travel into space. Gagarin's 4  $\frac{3}{4}$ -ton Vostok 1 spacecraft was launched at 9:07 AM Moscow time on April 12, 1961, orbited Earth once in 1 hour 29 minutes at a maximum altitude of 187 miles (301 km), and land-ed at 10:55 AM in the Soviet Union. His spaceflight brought him immediate worldwide fame. He was awarded the Order of Lenin and given the titles of Hero of the Soviet Union and Pilot Cosmonaut of the Soviet Union. Monuments were raised to him, and streets were renamed in his honour across the Soviet Union.

Vostok had a diameter of 2.43m and was 4.55m long. It was a single person spacecraft built for a low-Earth orbit. On re-entry to earth's atmosphere, Gagarin ejected at 7000m and descended via parachute. This is because the Vostok made very rough landings during test flights, and Gagarin would have been badly injured.

Gagarin never went into space again but took an active part in training other cosmonauts. He made several tours to other nations following his historic flight, and from 1962 he served as a deputy to the Supreme Soviet. Gagarin was killed with another pilot in the crash of a two-seat jet aircraft while on what was described as a routine training flight. His ashes were placed in a niche in the Kremlin wall. After his death in 1968 the town of Gzhatsk was renamed Gagarin.

#### Questions:

1. How long ago was Gagarin's space flight?
2. He launched from Moscow, which country is this in?
3. Gagarin's flight took 1 hour and 29 minutes. Write this as a mixed number.
4. Vostok had a mass of 4  $\frac{3}{4}$  tonnes. What is this a decimal?
7. Gagarin ejected at 7000m; how many kilometres is this?
8. Gagarin was deputy to the Supreme Soviet. What does this mean?
9. His ashes were placed in the Kremlin; where is this and what purpose does it have?

