

UNIT 15: SPACE CONQUEST

Part A: *READING*

BEFORE YOU READ: *Answer the following questions*

1. Who is the first human to fly into space?
2. Can you name the first humans to set foot on the moon?
3. Who is the first Vietnamese to fly into space?

WHILE YOU READ: *Read the passage and do the tasks*

1. At 9.07 a.m. Moscow time on 12th April, 1961, Yuri Gagarin lifted off into space aboard the Vostok 1. Approximately 12 minutes later, the first human being was in orbit around the Earth at a speed of more than 17,000 miles per hour. His flight lasted 108 minutes.

2. The 27-year-old Soviet cosmonaut became the first person to eat and drink in weightlessness. From his window in space, Gagarin was able to view the earth in a way that no human beings had done before. The first words spoken from space were: "I see the Earth. It's so beautiful!"

3. Before Gagarin's historic flight, there were still enormous uncertainties. No one knew precisely what would happen to a human being in space. How would the body react to the extreme changes in temperature? How would the mind deal with the psychological tension? If there was a technical failure, Gagarin might never get back to the Earth.

4. The success of Gagarin's flight attracted worldwide attention and made him a hero. In a telegram to Moscow, U.S. President John F. Kennedy wrote, "The people of the United States share with the people of the Soviet Union their satisfaction for the safe flight of the astronaut in man's first venture into space. We congratulate you and the Soviet scientists and engineers who made this feat possible. ..."

5. Gagarin could have made another space flight if a tragic accident had not occurred. He died in a plane crash on a routine training flight in March 1968. After his death, his hometown of Gzhatsk was renamed Gagarin, and the Cosmonaut Training Centre at Star City, Russia, was given the name of this national hero.

Vocabulary:

1. lift off (v) : bay lên , rời khỏi
2. bid goodbye = say goodbye: chào tạm biệt
3. enormous uncertainty: nỗi hoài nghi

4. precisely/prɪ'saɪsli/ = accurately (adv.) / 'ækjərətli/: một cách chính xác, đúng đắn
5. a technical failure/'teknɪkl/ / 'feɪljə(r)/: trục trặc về kỹ thuật
6. to fulfill /fʊl'fɪl/ = complete (v) /kəm'pli:t/: hoàn thành
7. react to (v): /ri'ækt/ tác động qua lại
8. share with s.o: chia sẻ với ai
9. set foot on (v): đặt chân lên
10. carry out (v): /'kæri/ tiến hành
11. mark a milestone: /'maɪlstəʊn/ tạo bước ngoặt
12. achievement(n): /ə'tʃi:vmənt/ thành tựu
to achieve (v): /ə'tʃi:v/ đạt được
13. NASA (=National Aeronautics /,eərə'nɔ:tɪks/ and Space Administration): cơ quan Hàng Không và Vũ trụ Hoa Kỳ
14. appoint (v): /ə'pɔɪnt/ bổ nhiệm
appointment (n): /ə'pɔɪntmənt/ việc bổ nhiệm
15. resign (v): /rɪ'zam/ từ chức

Task 1. Match the headings to the paragraphs.

Paragraph 1	A. The tragic accident
Paragraph 2	B. The lift-off
Paragraph 3	C. Congratulations
Paragraph 4	D. A view on Earth
Paragraph 5	E. Uncertainties

Task 2. Read the passage again and answer the questions.

1. How old was Gagarin when he became the first human being in space?
2. How long was he in space?
3. What questions were raised before Gagarin's space flight?
4. What was the speed of his spacecraft in orbit around the Earth?
5. Why couldn't Gagarin make a new space flight?
6. What was done after Gagarin's death to honour this national hero?