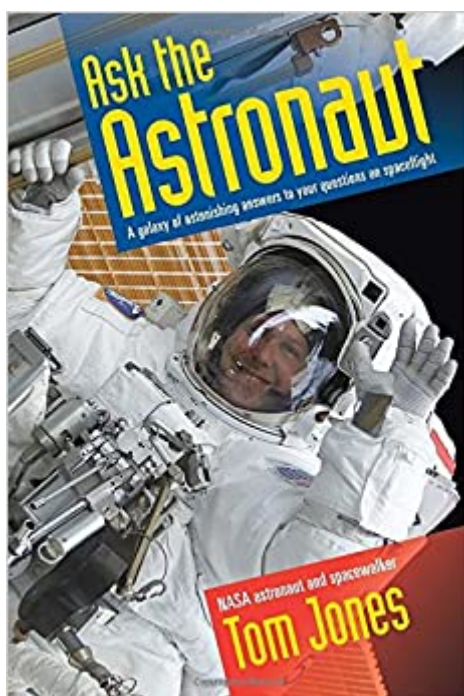


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# Ask The Astronaut: A Galaxy Of Astonishing Answers To Your Questions On Spaceflight



## Synopsis

Ever wondered what space is really like? Thanks to his 25 years of training for, flying in, consulting on, and writing and speaking about space, astronaut and spacewalker Tom Jones can answer that question and many others. What do you feel on liftoff? What is weightlessness? Where do you sleep in space? Can you see the Great Wall of China? Jones answers every question you have ever had about space in *Ask the Astronaut*. His entertaining blend of wit, personal experience, and technical expertise shines in each answer, and together all the answers illuminate the true space experience from start to finish. His engaging and informative responses remind readers of historic space achievements, acquaint them with exciting new ambitions, make them feel like they have experienced space firsthand, and even inspire an urge to explore space themselves. Jones covers everything from the training process for new astronaut candidates and the physical sensations and challenges of rocketing into orbit to what it's like to live, work, and walk in space. Jones also explores the future of spaceflight, both professional and commercial, in the years to come. *Ask the Astronaut* is a delight for all readers, especially "armchair astronauts" and younger, 21st century space explorers.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up • The former space shuttle astronaut and planetary scientist has written a treasure trove of answers to FAQs about modern space flight. The text is well organized, with questions categorized into chapters that explain the different steps in the process of aspiring to, training for, and living and working in space. Jones answers scores of questions that he has received over the

years at public forums, from "Where should we send astronauts next in space?" to "Have astronauts ever seen space aliens?" Most of the book focuses on NASA's space shuttle voyages to the International Space Station, because this is Jones's greatest area of experience as an astronaut. The technical descriptions in the answers are a bit complex, but the firsthand details and comprehensive back matter make this an ideal addition to any junior high or high school library. VERDICT A fascinating look at space travel that will excite budding STEM students. — Kelly Kingrey-Edwards, Blinn Junior College, Brenham, TX

SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL The former space shuttle astronaut and planetary scientist has written a treasure trove of answers to FAQs about modern space flight. The text is well organized, with questions categorized into chapters that explain the different steps in the process of aspiring to, training for, and living and working in space. Jones answers scores of questions that he has received over the years at public forums, from "Where should we send astronauts next in space?" to "Have astronauts ever seen space aliens?" Most of the book focuses on NASA's space shuttle voyages to the International Space Station, because this is Jones's greatest area of experience as an astronaut. The technical descriptions in the answers are a bit complex, but the firsthand details and comprehensive back matter make this an ideal addition to any junior high or high school library. VERDICT A fascinating look at space travel that will excite budding STEM students. — Kelly Kingrey-Edwards, Blinn Junior College, Brenham, TX

KIRKUS REVIEW SA veteran astronaut weighs in on queries ranging from how the universe began to how to pee in a spacesuit. The hundreds of questions are grouped in broadly topical chapters but otherwise arranged in no particular order. They cover an astronaut's qualifications, training, and work; what it feels like to travel into space and to live there; the nature of the universe and our near-future prospects for exploring it. Jones draws on his experiences on four space shuttle flights between 1994 and 2001 for his answers, which are usually fairly lengthy, though he plainly leaves a few things out: if "NASA astronauts wait an average of five years between missions," why were his so much closer together? Will he ever go to space again? "Not if I want to stay married." Still, he often drills down to the nitty-gritty: what's in the International Space Station's tool kit? A long list, beginning with vise grips and including "a crowbar, a fiber optic boroscope, torque tip drivers." He doesn't trumpet personal opinions, but they can be found in lukewarm responses to questions about space camp and space tourism, as well as a cogent argument for continuing our exploration of the high frontier: "We will be struck again by an asteroid." Plenty of small space photos and snapshots of the author and other astronauts at work and play are

interspersed. Fine browsing for space geeks. (Nonfiction. 11-14)

Great book, nicely written. Its in question and answer format, so lots of the questions you may have about what it's like in space are answered. Great job, Dr. Jones!

This is basically a book for young adults, which should be make clearer in the description. That said, there is a lot of interesting Q-and-A here on becoming and being an astronaut, and what it's like to travel and live in space. Five stars.

My granddaughter loves it.

I live in Houston, so interest in the space program is huge. My oldest grandson and I watched the last shuttle launch together and he has always shown an interest in everything space. He and his brothers just went to NASA last weekend and he has talked about going to space camp, something my son, his uncle, did. This book is terrific and, although the age it is intended for is a bit older than my grandson, reading it together is fun and informative. The book is written in a question and answer format. A wide variety of questions is covered. If you have any questions, they will probably be covered at some point in this book. There are also lots of pictures, something needed in a book designed for children. Children will enjoy this book, but so will adults. So many things are covered that there is something of interest for everyone. I look forward to sharing this book, not only with my oldest grandchild, but also with the 7 younger ones as they get older.

Tom Jones, a veteran astronaut of 4 shuttle missions, logging over 1272 hours (52 days) in space including 3 space walks totaling over 19 hours (one of which was over 10 hours in itself) is one of the more recognizable astronauts coming out of NASA over the past few years. Tom is also the author of one of my favorite biographies, *Sky Walking* and has now released another book, *ask the astronaut: A galaxy of astonishing answers to your questions on spaceflight*. Over the years, Tom has given numerous public appearances and has been asked numerous questions regarding his time at NASA, flying in the shuttle, the ISS and being in space in general. He has taken these and more and compiled them into a book to answer virtually every question you could have about spaceflight and being an astronaut. This book is really aimed at curious children interested in space although I learned quite a bit from the book so is equally aimed at adults. The book is split into 15 chapters, each chapter covering a different topic and within each chapter an average of 25

questions are asked and answered. This may not seem a lot (a little under 400 questions) but the author has given detailed and specific answers to each of the questions. Although Tom was exclusively a shuttle astronaut he has not limited his answers to just the shuttle and includes answers on Soyuz, the Chinese and European space programs and even the Indian space project (showing that the answers are right up to date), as well as the older US Mercury, Gemini and Apollo missions and the older Voskhod and Salyut Russian missions. A lot of effort has been put into the answers and it shows. Just about anything you could have thought to ask has been answered in one form or another. Whether it's something as generic as what is it like to look down at the earth from space, to why is duct tape important in space, to questions on micrometeoroids to the question that I'm sure every astronaut has been asked and indeed was parodied in the movie Apollo 13, how does an astronaut go to the toilet in space. Everything is answered. Ask the astronaut is a compendium of knowledge and Tom's writing style is lively yet informative making reading the book an enjoyable breeze. Highly recommended reading for anyone interested in spaceflight.

I loved that this book was written in a question/answer format. It made reading fun and engaging, as you didn't get bogged down with paragraph after paragraph of too many facts to digest. The author lent humor to his answers as well, making you want to continue to the next question. He answers just about anything you'd ever want to know about life in space, from takeoff and landing to eating (magnetic strips on the table to hold utensils down!) to laundry (they wear their clothes almost a month!! and toss their socks and underwear after 2 days!) to using the bathroom (um, I'd never thought about it...but, yeah?! How do you do that in space?!) to how to become an astronaut yourself! My only gripe is the pictures. There are a lot of them, which is GREAT! I just wish they'd been in color!! Space and its many discoveries aren't all black and white...and I think color pictures would have been much more interesting, especially considering the book's audience is geared toward children. But, Ask the Astronaut is a great addition to the library of any kid interested in space!

This book is simply wonderful. In a clear, engaging style, Jones answers questions about what it's really like to be an astronaut. It's got all the cool little details and it really makes you feel like you're experiencing what it's like to live in space for a while. Jones communicates in a way that's equally interesting for adults and for kids. You'll love this book as much as your kids do. And don't be surprised if your child wants a trip to space camp after reading this. And although Jones gets technical in parts of the books, it's done in a way where your child will be fascinated rather than

confused. Honestly, I'd love the publisher to do more books like this for other careers. This is a must read for anyone interested in space exploration!

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