




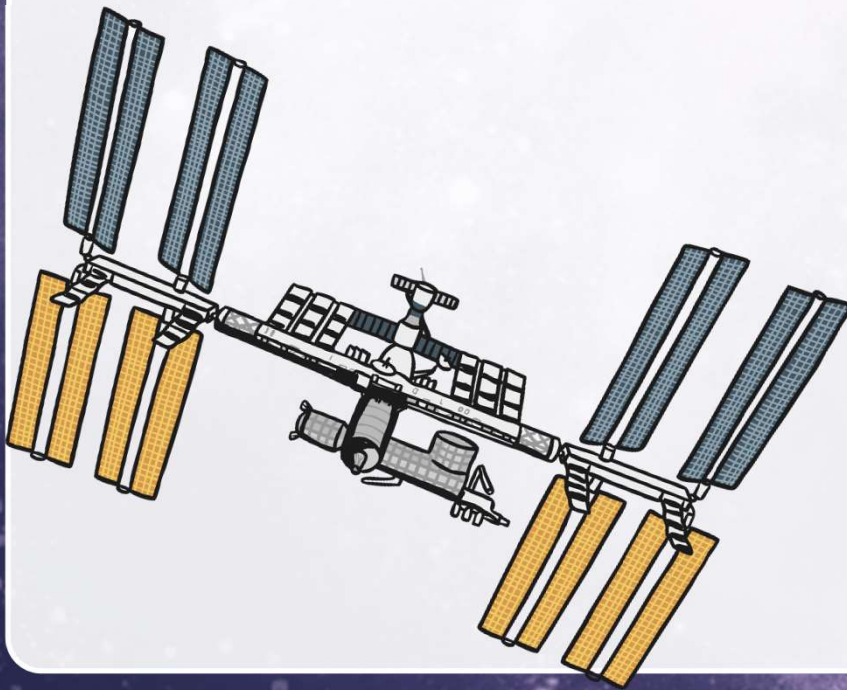
**Year 5 English and Topic
Week beginning 6th July**

**L.O.: I understand the role of an
astronaut
I can write a persuasive letter**



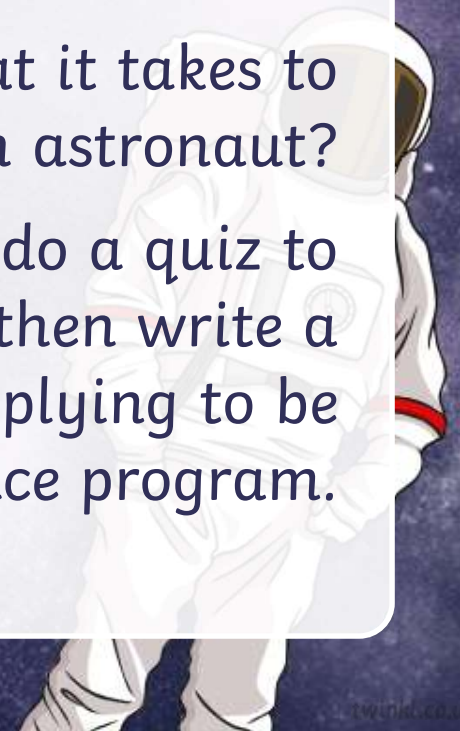
First British Astronaut in Space for over 20 Years!

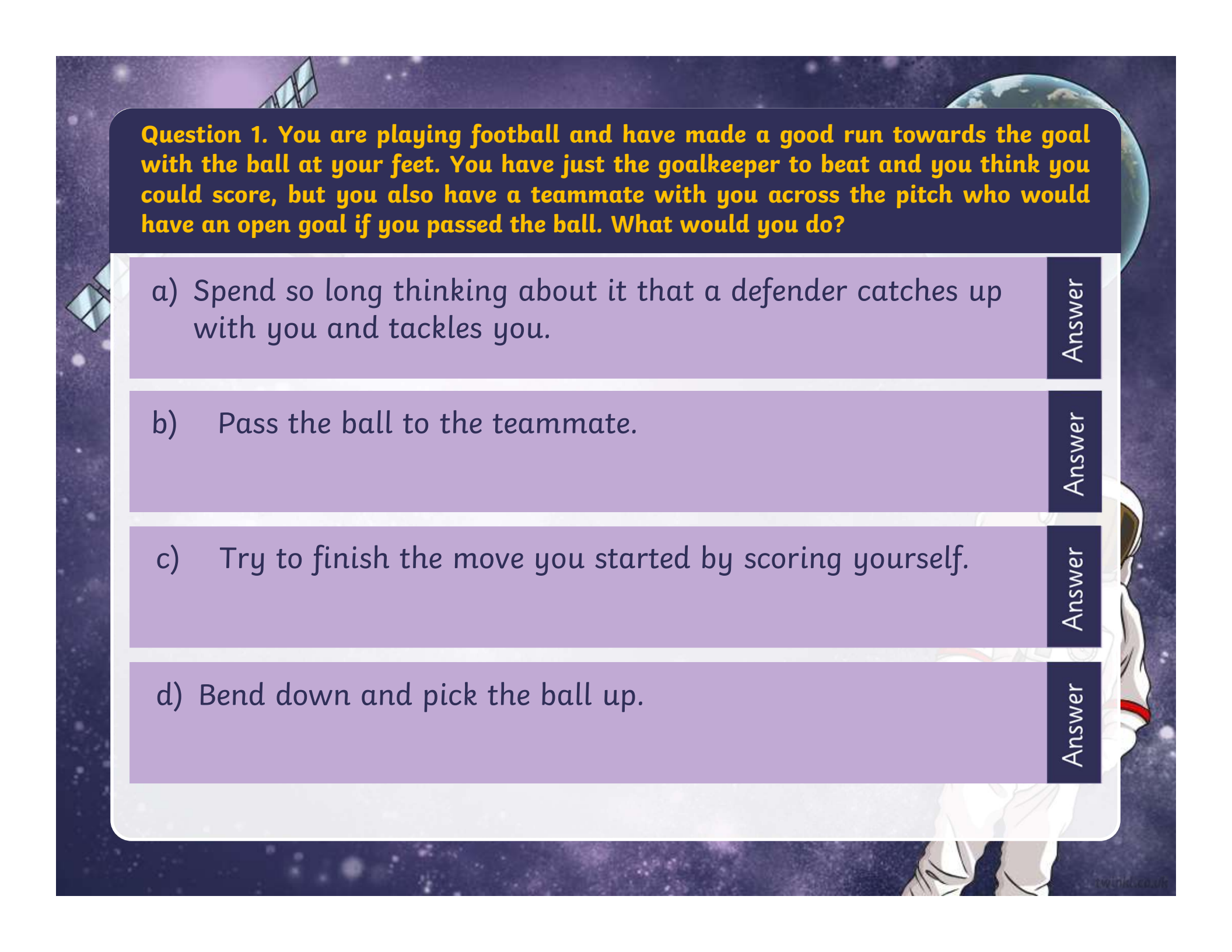
British astronaut Tim Peake made history when he spent 186 days on the International Space Station between 15th December 2015 and 18th June 2016. He became the first British astronaut in space for over 20 years.



Do you have what it takes to
be an astronaut?

We're going to do a quiz to
find out and then write a
letter to NASA applying to be
part of their space program.





Question 1. You are playing football and have made a good run towards the goal with the ball at your feet. You have just the goalkeeper to beat and you think you could score, but you also have a teammate with you across the pitch who would have an open goal if you passed the ball. What would you do?

a) Spend so long thinking about it that a defender catches up with you and tackles you.

Answer

b) Pass the ball to the teammate.

Answer

c) Try to finish the move you started by scoring yourself.

Answer

d) Bend down and pick the ball up.

Answer

Question 1 – Which answer did you choose? Read the explanation and write down how many points you scored.

a) Spend so long thinking about it that a defender catches up with you and tackles you.

0 points – An astronaut will need to be decisive and possibly make good decisions in time pressured situations.

Answer

b) Pass the ball to the teammate.

3 points – Astronauts need to be team players and this was the best decision to ensure success for the team.

Answer

c) Try to finish the move you started by scoring yourself.

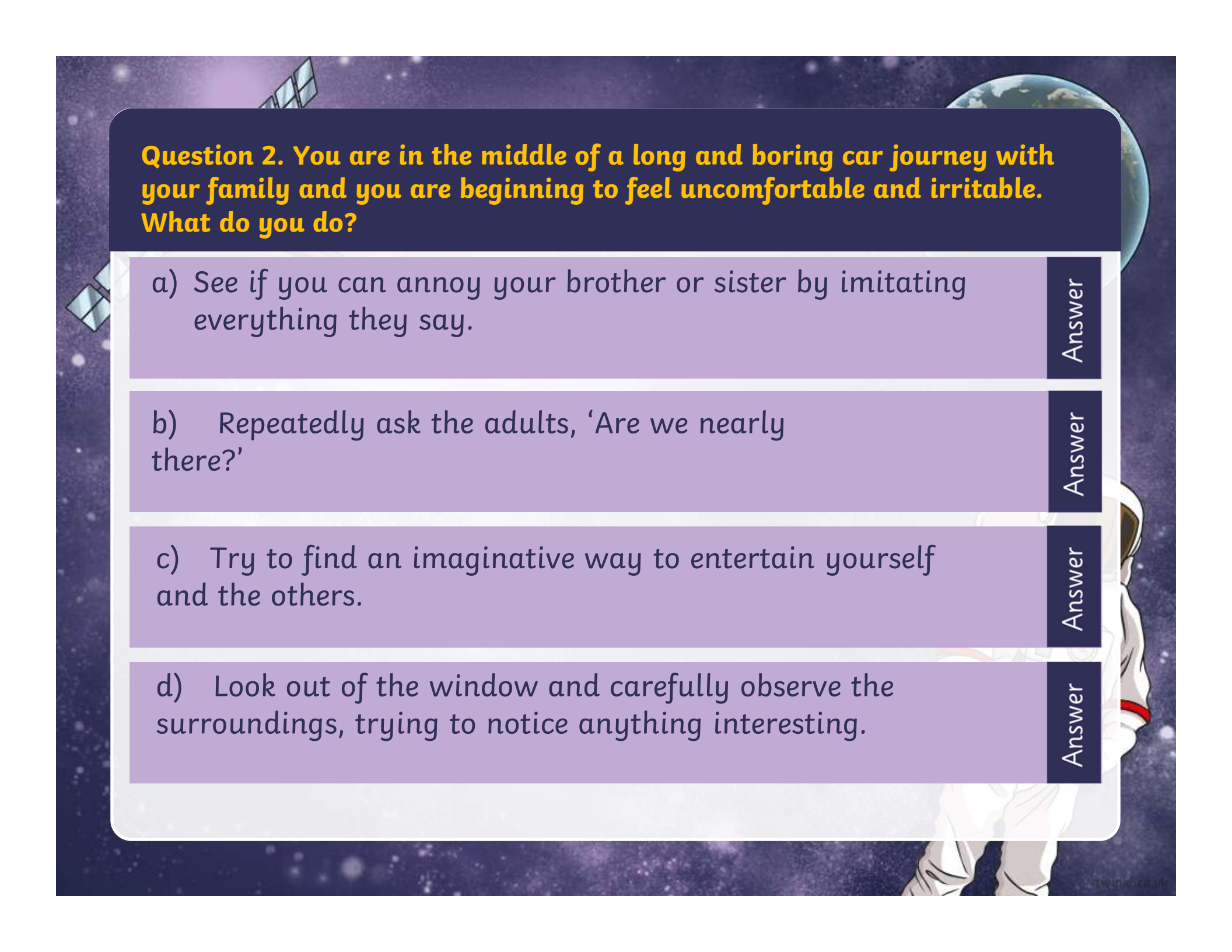
1 point – You get credit for confidence in your own ability, which is a useful attribute astronauts, but your choice showed you put personal glory ahead of team success!

Answer

d) Bend down and pick the ball up.

0 points – Space Agencies require high levels of intelligence in their astronauts – this would not be a clever thing to do!

Answer



Question 2. You are in the middle of a long and boring car journey with your family and you are beginning to feel uncomfortable and irritable. What do you do?

a) See if you can annoy your brother or sister by imitating everything they say.

Answer

b) Repeatedly ask the adults, 'Are we nearly there?'

Answer

c) Try to find an imaginative way to entertain yourself and the others.

Answer

d) Look out of the window and carefully observe the surroundings, trying to notice anything interesting.

Answer

Question 2 – Which answer did you choose? Read the explanation and write down how many points you scored.

a) See if you can annoy your brother or sister by imitating everything they say.

0 points – Astronauts need to find ways of getting along with near strangers in small spaces over long periods of time.

Answer

b) Repeatedly ask the adults, 'Are we nearly there?'

0 points – In Space the distances are huge and travelling times are far in excess of anything on Earth.

Answer

c) Try to find an imaginative way to entertain yourself and the others.

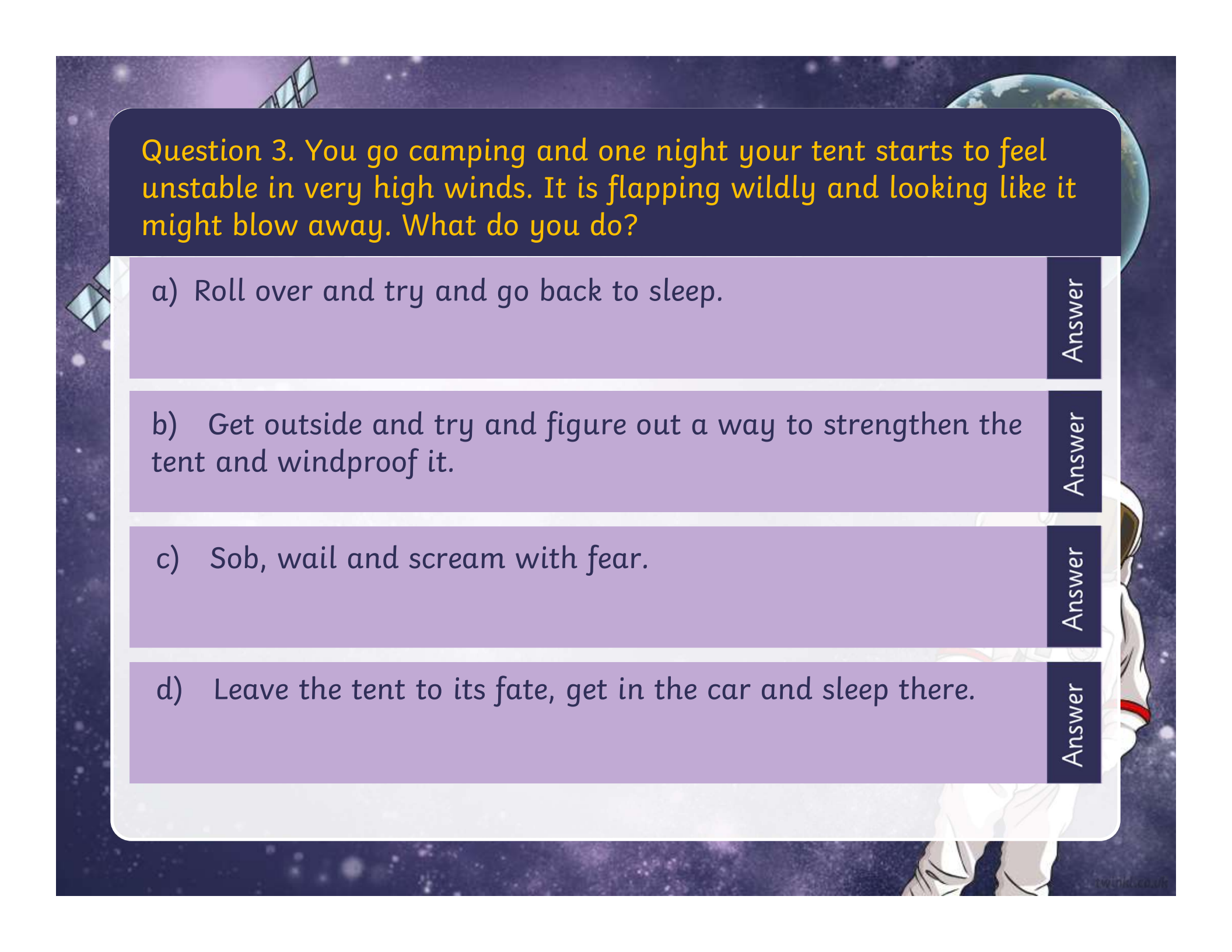
2 points – At times an astronaut may need to find the fun in a situation to beat boredom.

Answer

d) Look out of the window and carefully observe the surroundings, trying to notice anything interesting.

3 points – Astronauts need to have a real curiosity and desire to find out about new and interesting things. They should already take an interest in the world.

Answer



Question 3. You go camping and one night your tent starts to feel unstable in very high winds. It is flapping wildly and looking like it might blow away. What do you do?

a) Roll over and try and go back to sleep.

Answer

b) Get outside and try and figure out a way to strengthen the tent and windproof it.

Answer

c) Sob, wail and scream with fear.

Answer

d) Leave the tent to its fate, get in the car and sleep there.

Answer

Question 3 – Which answer did you choose? Read the explanation and write down how many points you scored.

a) Roll over and try and go back to sleep.

0 points – You would not be able to ignore threatening situations as an astronaut – you need to be prepared to take some sort of action.

Answer

b) Get outside and try and figure out a way to strengthen the tent and windproof it.

3 points – As an astronaut you need to be ready to solve problems using common sense and ingenuity.

Answer

c) Sob, wail and scream with fear.

0 points – This will not achieve anything.

Answer

d) Leave the tent to its fate, get in the car and sleep there.

1 point – At least you may survive the night safely but abandoning equipment would be a last resort.

Answer

4. You are at an activity centre and your group has climbed a very tall tower in order to complete a zip wire run. One member of your group has suddenly felt frightened of the height and has hunched in the corner of the tower sobbing and shaking. What would you do?

a) Tell them to get up and be quiet – they are ruining the fun for you.

Answer

b) Report the situation to the nearest adult and then carry on with what you were doing

Answer

c) Take responsibility for helping the person, explain that everyone feels a bit scared and offer to hold their hand and look after them.

Answer

d) Smile sympathetically and wait for someone else to deal with the problem.

Answer

Question 4 – Which answer did you choose? Read the explanation and write down how many points you scored.

a) Tell them to get up and be quiet – they are ruining the fun for you.

0 points – To be a successful astronaut you will need to consider others as well as yourself.

Answer

b) Report the situation to the nearest adult and then carry on with what you were doing

1 point – Taking this course of action will at least ensure that something gets done.

Answer

c) Take responsibility for helping the person, explain that everyone feels a bit scared and offer to hold their hand and look after them.

3 points – An astronaut needs to be able to take responsibility for situations.

Answer

d) Smile sympathetically and wait for someone else to deal with the problem.

0 points – This would not contribute anything towards a solution.

Answer

Question 5. You are running in a cross country race that goes on much longer than you expected and your tired body wants to stop and walk. What do you do?

a) Stop – it's important to listen to signals from your body.

Answer

b) Have a little walk but promise yourself you will start to run again as soon as you can.

Answer

c) Slow down and see how long you can ignore your body and keep going.

Answer

d) Keep your mind firmly focused on the finish line and how good you will feel when you get there, keep running in the knowledge you are getting closer all the time.

Answer

Question 5 – Which answer did you choose? Read the explanation and write down how many points you scored.

a) Stop – it's important to listen to signals from your body.

0 points – While this may be true, astronauts need more of a willingness to push themselves to their limits.

Answer

b) Have a little walk but promise yourself you will start to run again as soon as you can.

1 point – This strategy gets some credit as you are finding a way to continue.

Answer

c) Slow down and see how long you can ignore your body and keep going.

2 points – Choosing this option shows you have a desire to do your best even when things are tough.

Answer

d) Keep your mind firmly focused on the finish line and how good you will feel when you get there, keep running in the knowledge you are getting closer all the time. **3 points** – This type of positive thinking and determination is exactly what is needed in an astronaut.

Answer

Question 6. You are doing a science experiment – which of the following would best describe your notes?

a) Notes - what notes?

Answer

b) Neatly organised and carefully presented.

Answer

c) Half-finished and scribbly with water and ink blotches.

Answer

d) Clear and complete but with jottings about ideas about further investigations and extra observations.

Answer

Question 6 – Which answer did you choose? Read the explanation and write down how many points you scored.

a) Notes - what notes?

0 points – Performing scientific experiments is an important skill for astronauts.

Answer

b) Neatly organised and carefully presented.

2 points – This is important to ensure that the results of an experiment can be properly interpreted.

Answer

c) Half-finished and scribbly with water and ink blotches.

0 points – Half-finished notes are of no scientific value.

Answer

d) Clear and complete but with jottings about ideas about further investigations and extra observations.

3 points – A combination of curiosity, creativity and carefulness is perfect for a potential astronaut.

Answer



How did you do?

Grounded

Astronaut may not be quite the right job for you based on your answers at the moment but there's plenty of time to change that!

0 – 5 points

Launching

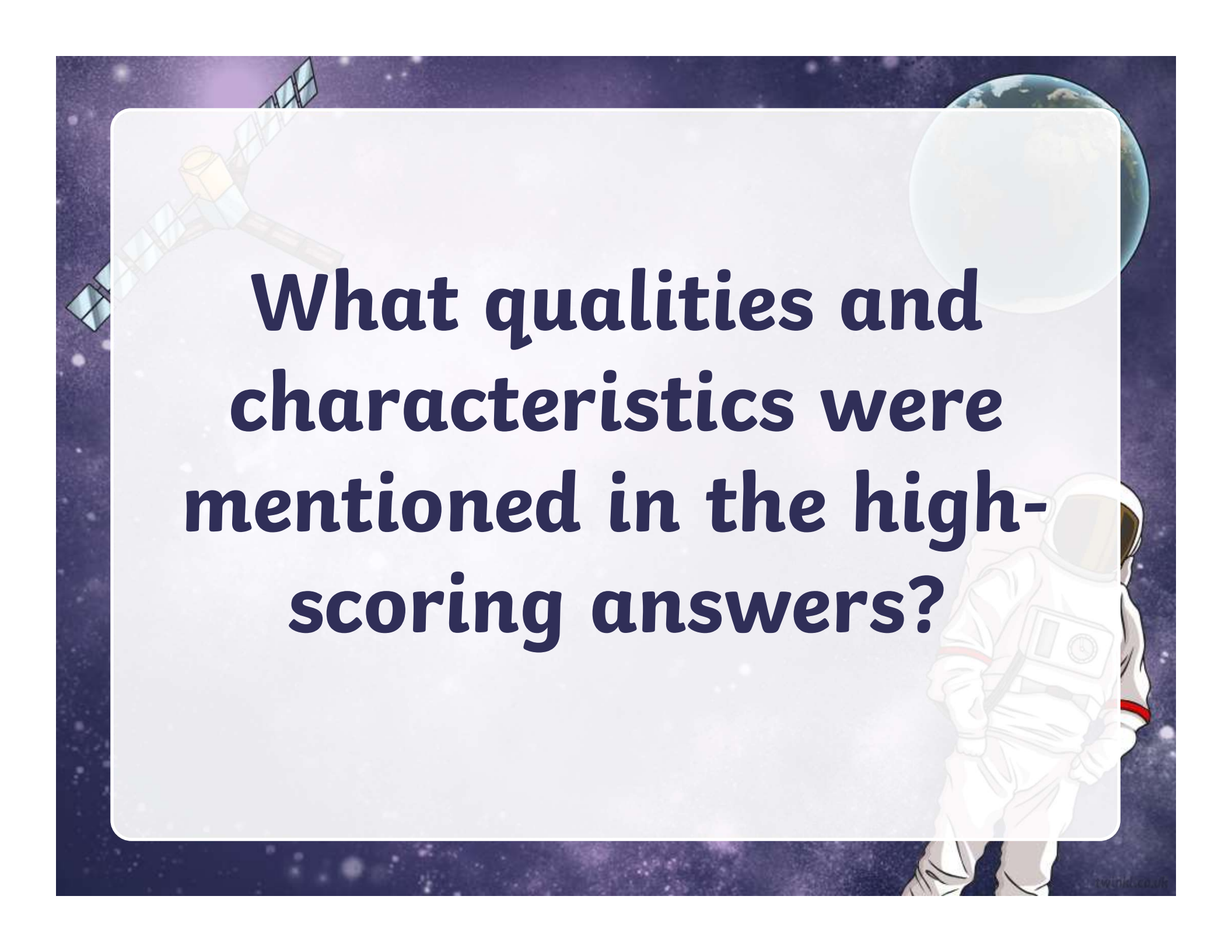
You have the potential to be a good astronaut and you have time to become an even better candidate.

5 – 10 points

Flying

Keep doing what you're doing and you have a one-way ticket to the stars!

15+ points

The background of the slide is a dark purple space scene with a satellite in the upper left, a large Earth in the upper right, and an astronaut in a white suit in the lower right. The text is centered in a white rounded rectangle.

What qualities and characteristics were mentioned in the high-scoring answers?



What qualities and characteristics were mentioned in the high-scoring answers?

Teamwork

Decisive

Calm under pressure

Confidence

Intelligent

Curiosity

Adventurous

Problem-solving

Considerate of others

Responsible

Determination

Positivity

Aims to do their best

Perseverance

Resilience

Creativity

Carefulness

Physical fitness

Able to get along with others

Your task

Write a letter to NASA explaining why you would be a good astronaut.

Look back at the previous page for the qualities you need and choose a few of these which you think you have. In your letter, talk about these qualities and give examples of when you've demonstrated these qualities (*example on last page*).

As well as using the Year 5 non-negotiables, try to use persuasive techniques. E.g.:

- **Rhetorical questions** – Don't you think...? Surely you agree...?
- **Conjunctions** to link and strengthen ideas – In addition, Furthermore, Consequently
- **Strong, emotive language** – not 'it is good'; but 'it is absolutely amazing and life-changing'
- **Modal verbs** – would, could, should, must, will. Think about which ones are most powerful!

There is a word bank on the next page with some useful phrases.

Challenge: Use parentheses! () - - , ,

Introductions

I think...
For this reason...
I feel that...
I am sure that...
It is certain...
I am writing to...
Of course...
In the same way...
On the other hand...
In this situation...

Making your point

Firstly, secondly,
thirdly...
Furthermore...
In addition...
Also...
Finally...
Likewise...
Besides...
Again...
Moreover...
Similarly...
Surely...
Certainly...
Specifically...
If...then...
because...

Details

For example...
In fact...
For instance...
As evidence...
In support of this...

Endings

For these reasons...
As you can see...
In other words...
On the whole...
In short...
Without a doubt...
In brief...
Undoubtedly...

Other Words

reasons
arguments
for
against
unfair
pros
cons



Beginning of an example letter

Dear NASA,

I am writing to you to earn a place on your space training program. I have studied the criteria for becoming an astronaut and am certain I more than meet the requirements and will be an excellent and successful member of the space station crew.

Firstly, I have brilliant teamwork skills, which are obviously essential when working with the crew in high-pressure situations. I am a superb listener and will make sure all members of the team have the chance to speak, although am able to move the conversation on when needed - we don't want to waste time when there will be so much to do! Furthermore, I am able to defuse conflict easily with my calm nature and likeable humour. Also, don't you want someone funny on board (like me) to keep everyone's spirits up?

In addition, I am physically very fit and capable. I have run several half-marathons and even a marathon! I know Tim Peake ran a marathon in space but I did it in Edinburgh battling the Scottish weather and hills. You have to agree that is harder than doing it without even gravity pulling you down – I had gravity pulling me down, rain pushing me back and wind pulling me sideways!!