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Space shuttles find retirement homes

MANY FLASH AND ONLINE ACTIVITIES FOR THIS LESSON, PLUS A LISTENING, AT:

http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

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13th April, 2011

THE READING / TAPESCRIPT

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced where its fleet of space shuttles will retire. The Endeavour will be going to the California Science Center in Los Angeles after it finishes its final mission in late April. It was built to replace the Challenger shuttle, which blew up in the sky in 1986. Discovery is going to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Atlantis' new home will be the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Enterprise is off to a museum in New York City.

NASA's Charles Bolden said putting the shuttles in museums would get more young people interested in space travel. "People from across our nation and around the world will continue to learn from these amazing vehicles, and the stories of their crews and their missions," said Bolden. He added: "The shuttles will inspire many people who are now just in school to become the next generation of exploration leaders. Millions more...will also now have a chance to see a space shuttle in person."

PHRASE MATCH

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

Match the following phrases from the article.

Paragraph 1

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. its fleet | a. the Challenger |
| 2. after it finishes | b. of space shuttles |
| 3. built to replace | c. home |
| 4. blew up | d. museum in New York |
| 5. Atlantis' new | e. its final mission |
| 6. off to a | f. in the sky |

Paragraph 2

- | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. get more young people | a. generation |
| 2. People from across | b. vehicles |
| 3. learn from these amazing | c. interested |
| 4. inspire | d. see a space shuttle |
| 5. the next | e. our nation |
| 6. have a chance to | f. many people |

LISTENING GAP FILL

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced _____ space shuttles will retire. The Endeavour will be going to the California Science Center in Los Angeles after it _____ mission in late April. It was _____ the Challenger shuttle, which _____ in 1986. Discovery is going to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Atlantis' _____ the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Enterprise _____ in New York City.

NASA's Charles Bolden said _____ in museums would get more young people interested in space travel. "People from _____ and around the world will continue _____ amazing vehicles, and the stories of their crews and their missions," said Bolden. He added: "The shuttles _____ people who are now just in school to become the _____ exploration leaders. Millions more...will also now _____ see a space shuttle in person."

MULTIPLE CHOICE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced where its (1) _____ of space shuttles will retire. The Endeavour will be going to the California Science Center in Los Angeles (2) _____ it finishes its final mission in (3) _____ April. It was built to replace the Challenger shuttle, which blew (4) _____ in the sky in 1986. Discovery is going to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Atlantis' new (5) _____ will be the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Enterprise is (6) _____ to a museum in New York City.

NASA's Charles Bolden said (7) _____ the shuttles in museums would get more young people interested (8) _____ space travel. "People from across our nation and around the world will continue to learn (9) _____ these amazing vehicles, and the stories of (10) _____ crews and their missions," said Bolden. He added: "The shuttles will (11) _____ many people who are now just in school to become the next generation of exploration leaders. Millions more...will also now have a chance to see a space shuttle in (12) _____."

Put the correct words from this table into the article.

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| 1. | (a) fleet | (b) sheet | (c) meet |
| 2. | (a) post | (b) then | (c) after |
| 3. | (a) fast | (b) late | (c) 30 th |
| 4. | (a) down | (b) up | (c) on |
| 5. | (a) house | (b) hotel | (c) home |
| 6. | (a) off | (b) on | (c) up |
| 7. | (a) puts | (b) put | (c) putting |
| 8. | (a) at | (b) in | (c) of |
| 9. | (a) from | (b) for | (c) at |
| 10. | (a) their | (b) them | (c) they |
| 11. | (a) inspiration | (b) inspiring | (c) inspire |
| 12. | (a) people | (b) person | (c) human |

SPELLING

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

Spell the jumbled words (from the text) correctly.

Paragraph 1

1. fleet of space hssuetlt
2. will eeirtr
3. its final monsisi
4. built to reelpac the Challenger
5. Kennedy Space erCtne
6. off to a usmmeu

Paragraph 2

7. tieneedrst in space travel
8. itonneecu to learn
9. aazgimn vehicles
10. issrote of their crews
11. rinispe many people
12. in sorpne

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () people interested in space travel. "People from across our nation and around the world will continue to learn
- () "The shuttles will inspire many people who are now just in school to become
- () where its fleet of space shuttles will retire. The Endeavour will be going to the California Science Center
- () the next generation of exploration leaders. Millions more...will also
- () from these amazing vehicles, and the stories of their crews and their missions," said Bolden. He added:
- () to the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum, Atlantis' new home will
- () be the Kennedy Space Center in Florida and Enterprise is off to a museum in New York City.
- () replace the Challenger shuttle, which blew up in the sky in 1986. Discovery is going
- () NASA's Charles Bolden said putting the shuttles in museums would get more young
- (**1**) America's National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has announced
- () in Los Angeles after it finishes its final mission in late April. It was built to
- () now have a chance to see a space shuttle in person."

WORD JUMBLE

From: http://www.NewsEnglishLessons.com/1004/110413-space_shuttles.html

With a partner, put the words back into the correct order.

1. National and Administration America's Aeronautics Space.

2. fleet Its retire will shuttles space of.

3. finishes mission April it final late After its in.

4. 1986 in sky the in up Blew.

5. to York a City museum in Off New.

6. Get in more space young travel people interested.

7. from learn to Continue vehicles amazing these.

8. The will many shuttles inspire people.

9. Become leaders exploration of generation next the.

10. in A see shuttle to space person chance a.

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

HOMEWORK

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. SPACE SHUTTLES: Search the Internet and find more information about space shuttles. Talk about what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. MAGAZINE ARTICLE: Write a magazine article about the retirement of the space shuttles. Include imaginary interviews with some astronauts who went up into space in them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

4. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

5. LETTER: Write a letter to a space shuttle astronaut. Ask him/her three questions about space shuttles. Give him/her three of your opinions on what should replace them. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Your partner will answer the questions you asked.