

Space Boy.



Unit Study

Space Boy

Book by Leo Landry

Unit study by Rachel Harris

Social Studies:

Occupations: An astronaut is a person engaged in or trained for space flight. Discuss this occupation with your child. Have they ever seen a real astronaut on television or in a magazine or book before? What do Astronauts do? What do they wear? (*helmet, space suit, boots, etc.*) Why? (*Protection, so they can breathe, to regulate their body temperature in space, etc.*)

Human Emotions: There are many emotions expressed in this story. In the beginning, we see Nicholas' baby sister upset, and Nicholas feeling frustrated. While on the moon, we see Nicholas expressing relief and joy. Later we see Nicholas feeling tired, happy and content. We also see Nicholas feeling extremely overwhelmed with all of the noises.

We all feel overwhelmed sometimes, and we all need to occasionally take some time and space for ourselves. Discuss with your child this common need, and times he or she may need to take a self-proclaimed "time out." Discuss how Nicholas used a creative solution: his imagination! What are some ways your child can use his or her imagination to get away?

Relationships: In this story we see the sibling relationship, the parent/child relationship, and the owner/pet relationship.

Does your child have any siblings? Pets? At first Nicholas is annoyed with his family and wants to get away, but the happy memories he shares with them helps him remember how good it is to be home and have a family. What does your student like about being in a family?

Language Arts:

List Making: Nicholas makes a mental list of his space outfit. See if your child can remember this list: space suit, space boots, and helmet. After he put on each item, Nicholas said, “check.”

Discuss how you can create a list when you are packing, and check off items as you place them in your suitcase to help keep organized. What other types of lists can you make? (grocery store, picnic lunch, daily chores, daily assignments, recipe, etc.)

Make a list together.

Repetition: The author uses repetition of noises in this story to bring a comfortable balance and symmetry to the story. The noises in the beginning are remembered in the middle of the story (in contrast to the quiet of space), and are mentioned at the end of the story (in contrast to the absence of the noises now that it is later). Can you think of any other stories you have read that use repetition?

Imaginary vs. Real: Discuss what is real in the story. What parts are imaginary?

Vocabulary

Lunar: of, relating to, or resembling the moon.

Hatch: a small door or opening in an aircraft

Gravity: the force of attraction between two objects, which is influenced by the mass of the two objects and the distance between the two objects.

Craters: a hole made by an impact (like a meteorite) or by the explosion of a bomb or shell

Art and Music:

Illustrations: Compare the illustrations in the story. When Nicholas is home, the illustrations are bordered and rounded off. When he is in space, the illustrations take up the entire page. Discuss possible reasons for this choice.

Details: Notice the astronaut's helmet and rocket lamp on the nightstands in Nicholas' room, as well as the space picture hanging above his bed. Also notice on the pages where Nicholas is in space, the earth is always visible. Could this be the illustrator's way of showing us that home is always there, waiting for us?

Math:

Counting backwards: Nicholas counted backwards from 4 - 1 before "blasting off." Practice counting backwards with your child, perhaps while playing Astronaut in a laundry basket or big box. For fun, try teaching them these numbers in another language, such as Spanish or French.

Try counting backwards from a larger number (such as 10 or 20).

Distance: Discuss the concept of distance and near and far. The moon is far away (238,855 miles away. It would take three days to get there from Earth!), and because of that, it can look small in the sky when we look at it from earth. The same is true with stars. However, when Nicholas got into space and on the moon, the earth looked small. Try this concept with different objects in your home. Hold them in front of each other's faces and say, "Near" and then run to the other side of the room and say "Far." Point out how the objects seem smaller when they are far away, but the size of the object doesn't change. Kids will have a lot of fun running back and forth and holding different objects in front of your face.

Measuring: When Nicholas was on the moon, you could see his footprints in the dust. (tidbit - There is a famous picture of Armstrong's footprint in space. It is said that it will be there for millions of years because there is no wind on the moon to blow it away!) Have your child either step in sand outside or trace their footprint on paper and measure how long it is. Then measure your own and compare them.

Weight: Discuss weight with your child and compare different toys and household objects as being either heavy or light. Maybe get out a scale and show this visibly. Then discuss how in space, we are weightless, like Nicholas' tomato slices!

Science:

Sound/Hearing: Nicholas decided to go on his space trip because of all of the noises keeping him up at night. He wasn't able to go to sleep because of the loud crying, barking, and radio. Hearing is one of our five senses and when we take away one of our senses (such as sight when our eyes are closed at night), our other senses are heightened.

Have your child close their eyes and see what noises they can hear. Can they hear birds chirping? An airplane overhead? The hum of the refrigerator or air conditioner?

The author was inspired to write this story after reading that the moon is 10,000 times quieter than the quietest place on earth. Mention this to your child and play the Quiet Game. Who can stay quiet the longest?

Astronomy: The Moon

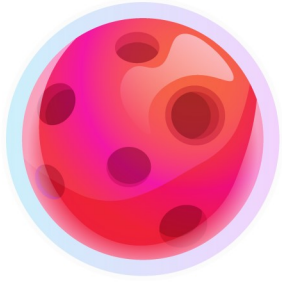
The moon's surface is covered with fine soil, which is the result of constantly being bombarded with meteors. There are valleys (the dark spots) and mountains (the light spots) on the moon. There is no atmosphere on the moon and temperatures range from -184 degrees Celsius during the night to 214 degrees Celsius during the day. If you choose, you can describe the different phases of the moon with your child and possibly chart the phases for a month.

Biblical Application

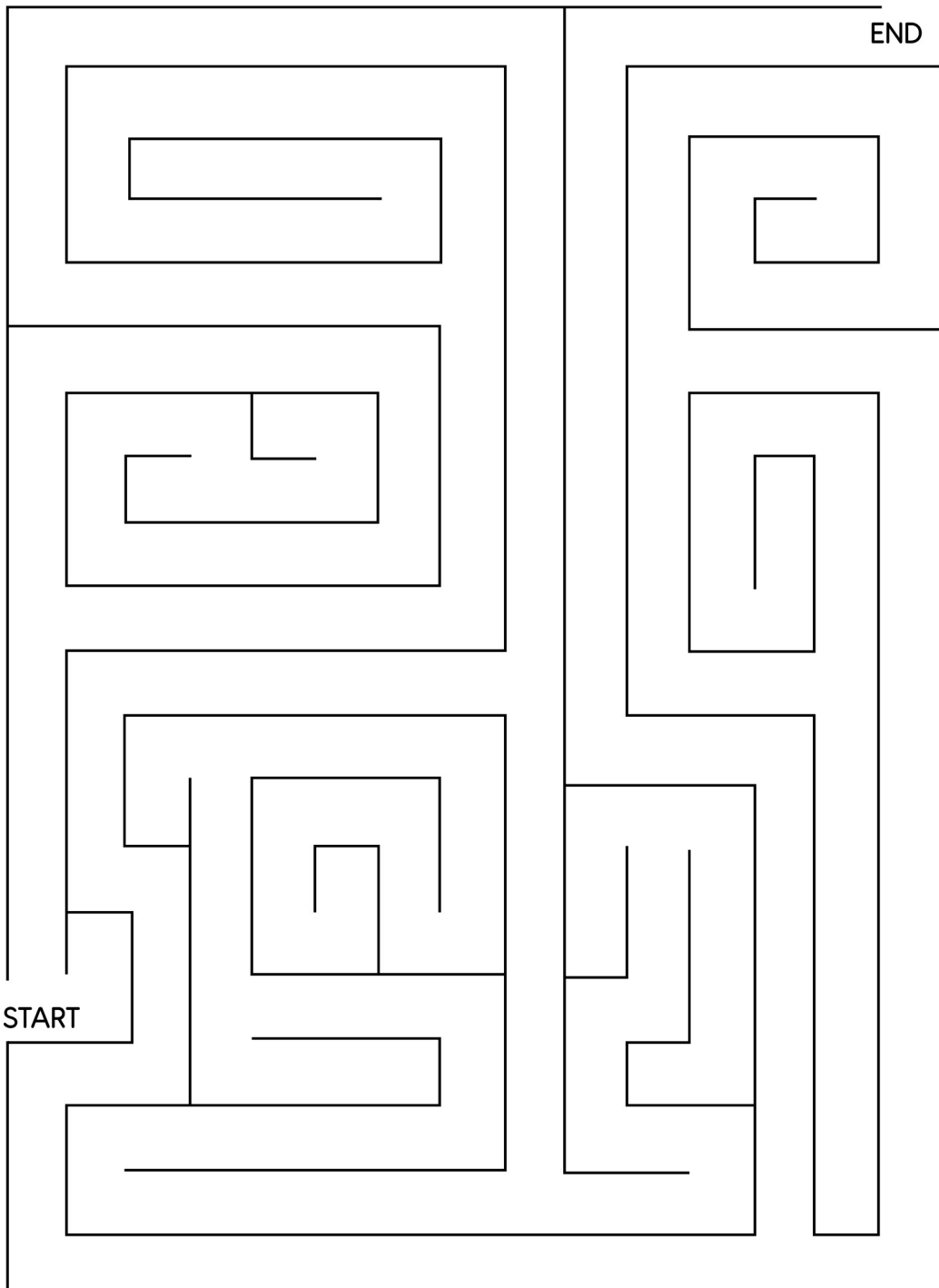
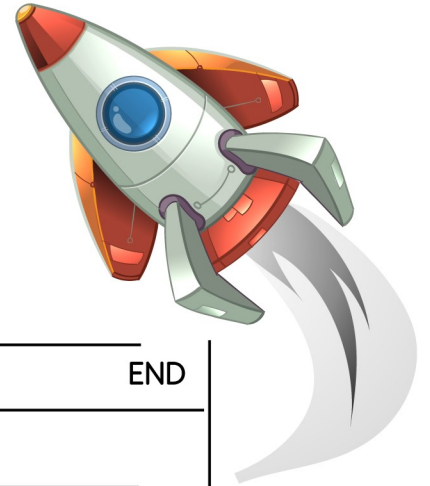
Creation - Day 4: Read and discuss Genesis 1:14-20 with your child.

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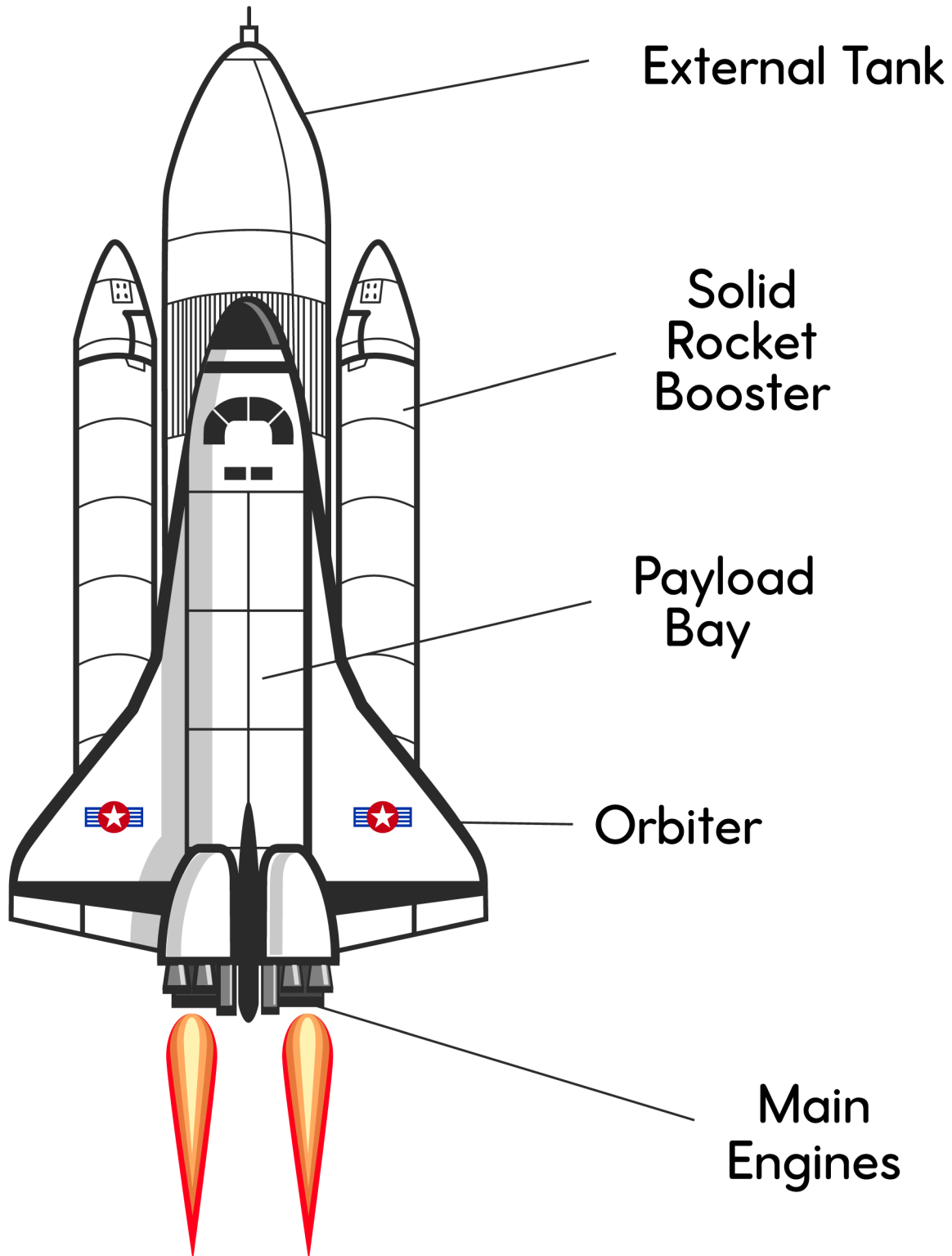
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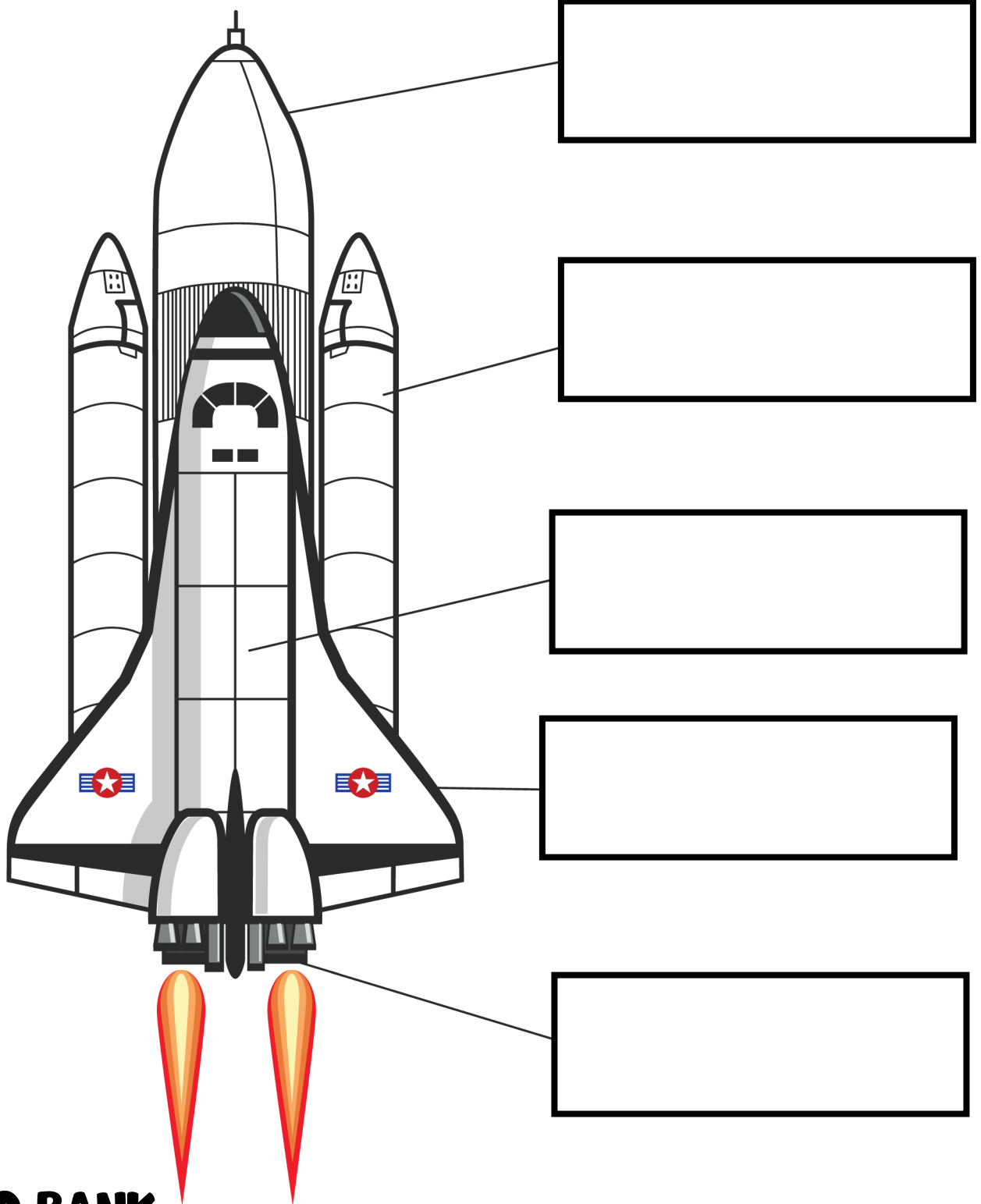
ROCKET MAZE



SPACE SHUTTLE DIAGRAM



LABEL THE SPACE SHUTTLE



WORD BANK

Rocket
Booster

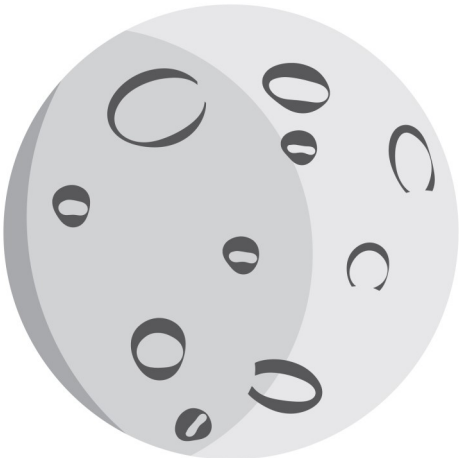
External
Tank

Orbiter

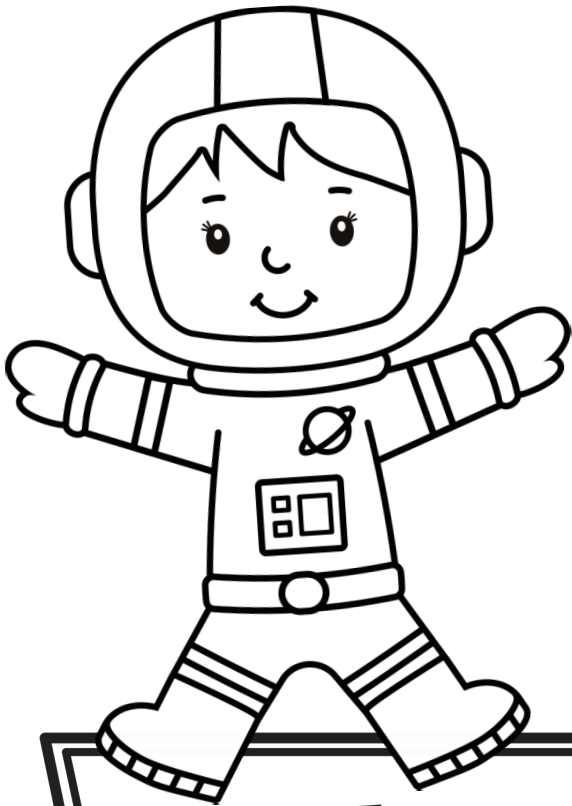
Main
Engines

Payload
Bay

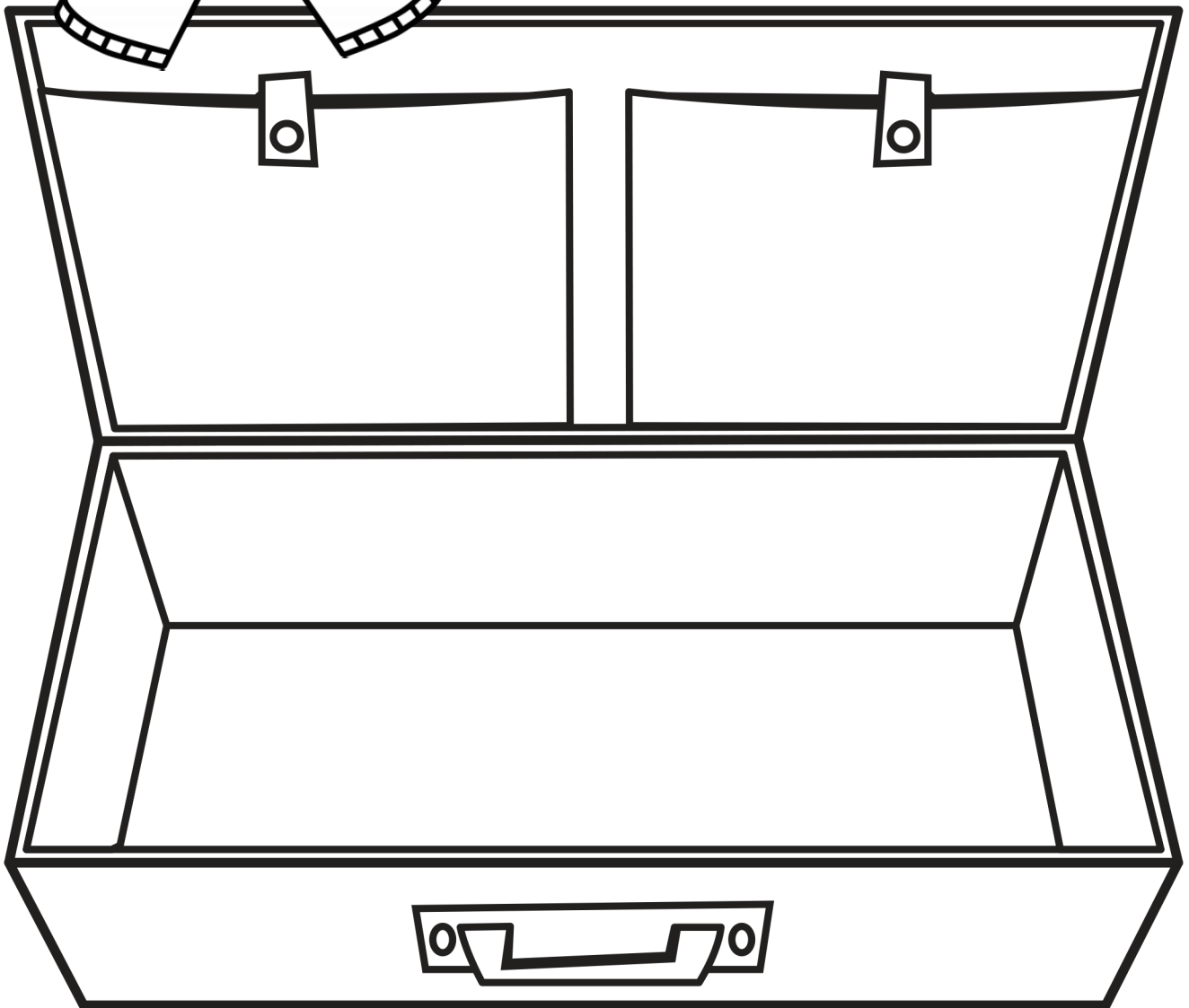
MOON FACTS

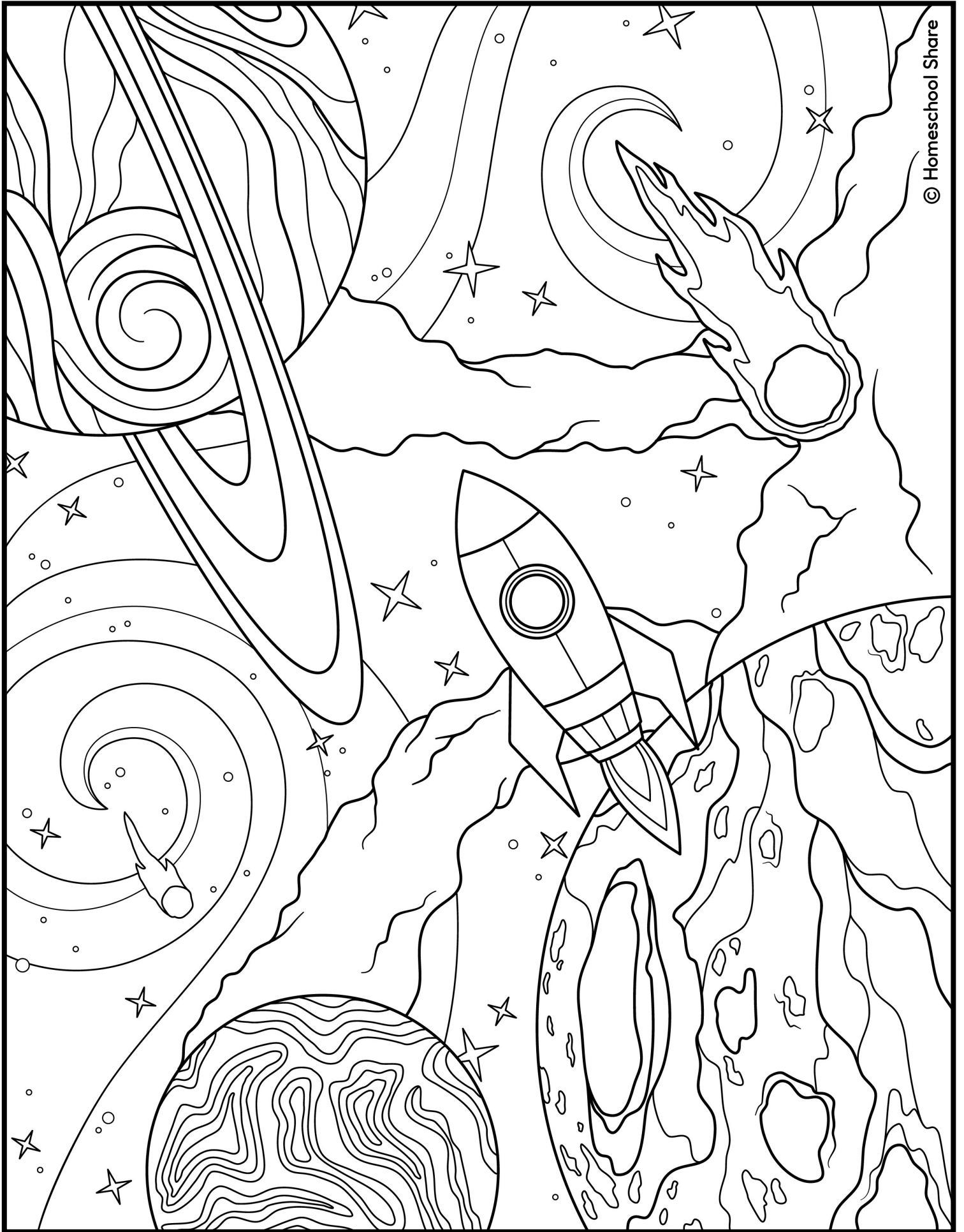


GOING TO SPACE!



You are going to space! What will you pack? Draw, cut, and paste items into the suitcase.





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