

Grade 6 LL (extract)

Why Is the International Space Station Important?

The space station is a home in orbit. People have lived in space every day since the year 2000. The space station's labs are where crew members do research. This research could not be done on Earth.

Scientists study what happens to people when they live in space. NASA has learned how to keep a spacecraft working for a long time. These lessons will be important in the future.

NASA has a plan to send humans deeper into space than ever before. The space station is one of the first steps. NASA will use lessons from the space station to get astronauts ready for the journey ahead.

Source: "What Is the International Space Station" from *NASA Knows* by David Hitt (2011)

Explain why the space station is important.

Use information from the text to describe at least **two reasons** why the space station helps scientists and astronauts. Give examples from the passage to support your ideas.