

Name: _____

A TOUR OF A SPACE SHUTTLE

Directions: On February 1, 2003, people around the world were shocked and saddened when the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart as it reentered Earth's atmosphere. Now, NASA scientists need to figure out what caused the accident and how they can prevent future Space Shuttle accidents. What do you know about how the Space Shuttle works? Explore the Web site provided to learn more about the Space Shuttle. Then fill in the missing word or words to complete the sentences below.

Web Resources:

The Space Shuttle

<http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/Rockets/shuttle.asp>



1. The Space Shuttle takes off like a _____, flies around the earth like a _____, and lands like an _____.
2. The Shuttle's main parts are the orbiter, the solid rocket boosters, and the _____.
3. The part of the shuttle the astronauts ride in is called the _____.
4. After takeoff, the Shuttle's _____ drop off and are parachuted into the ocean.
5. The word *payload* is another word for _____.

Something to Think About: On January 28, 1986, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded during takeoff. On February 1, 2003, the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart during reentry. Do you think the Space Shuttle program should continue in spite of those accidents?

Learn More: Make your own Space Shuttle glider. Click *Make a shuttle glider* on The Space Shuttle page at <http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov/Rockets/shuttle.asp> or go directly to <http://spacelink.nasa.gov/Instructional.Materials/NASA.Educational.Products/Space.Shuttle.Glider/Space.Shuttle.Glider.pdf>.