

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from **Monday, April 11** of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

Inflatable room delivered to astronauts via SpaceX (Main News, **page A2**).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Why do you think an inflatable room is being delivered to astronauts in space? How do you think they will inflate it? What do you think the room will be used for?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions in the chart below.**

A. cargo / freight	1. to send or shoot (something, such as a rocket) into the air or water or into outer space
B. compound	2. a small door or opening in an airplane or spaceship
C. docking	3. something you are trying to do or achieve; a goal or purpose
D. habitat	4. an enclosed area that contains a group of buildings
E. hatch	5. filled and made larger with air or gas
F. hefty	6. a device that detects or senses heat, light, sound, motion, etc., and then reacts to it in a particular way
G. envision	7. a special environment for living in over an extended period
H. inflated	8. to travel around (something, such as a planet or moon) in a curved path
I. launch	9. large and heavy
J. orbit	10. the moment when an airplane or spacecraft touches the ground at the end of a flight
K. objective	11. something that is carried from one place to another by boat, airplane, etc.
L. platform	12. to think of (something that you believe might exist or happen in the future)
M. sensor	13. a usually raised structure that has a flat surface where people or machines do work
N. touchdown	14. to join together (two spacecraft) while in space

Comprehension

1. How did astronauts aboard the space station capture the SpaceX Dragon cargo ship as it was orbiting above Earth?
2. The inflatable room that the Dragon delivered, will be attached to the space station Saturday but won't be _____ until the end of May. **(Fill in the blank)**
3. The technology could change the way astronauts live in space. Where does NASA envision having inflatable habitats in a couple of decades?
4. NASA wants to see how the experimental inflatable room functions, so the hatch will stay sealed except when astronauts enter a few times a year to do what?
5. This is SpaceX's first delivery for NASA in a year. What happened last June that put shipments on hold?
6. SpaceX is still excited about its success of its booster landing at sea. SpaceX Chief executive Elon Musk wants to reuse boosters to save money. What did he say this would do and what did he say his goal is?
7. NASA has hired companies like SpaceX to deliver cargo and as early as next year, astronauts to the space station. How do U.S. astronauts currently get to the space station?
8. This is the first time in five years that the space compound has six docking ports occupied – **true or false?**
9. How long will the Dragon remain at the space station before returning to Earth with science samples?
 - a) 1 month
 - b) 2 months
 - c) 3 months
10. Along with Boeing, SpaceX has a NASA contract to fly astronauts to the space station. If successful, those flights would represent an even greater achievement. Explain why.

Additional Activities

1. **Answer the following questions about the article you just read:**
 - A. Who or what is this article about?
 - B. Why do you think this article is important?
 - C. What is the most important or interesting fact you learned from this article?
2. Have students visit NASA's website to read space station updates, view an image of the expandable habitat and view photos of Earth from the space station.
https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/station/main/index.html
3. Students can read more about the commercial resupply of the space station by the Dragon at: <http://www.nasa.gov/feature/dragon-spacecraft-delivers-cargo-that-advances-journey-to-mars-and-benefits-life-on-earth> and <http://www.nasa.gov/content/dragon-begins-cargo-laden-chase-of-station> to view a video of the lift-off of the Dragon spacecraft.

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 11
- B. 4
- C. 14
- D. 7
- E. 2
- F. 9
- G. 12
- H. 5
- I. 1
- J. 8
- K. 3
- L. 13
- M. 6
- N. 10

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

1. They used a robot arm to capture it.
2. inflated
3. They envision having inflatable habitats on Mars in a couple of decades.
4. Except when astronauts enter a few times a year to collect measurements and swap out sensors.
5. A launch accident last June put shipments on hold.
6. He said saving money on boosters and being able to reuse them will open access to space to more people. His goal is to establish a city on Mars.
7. Currently U.S. astronauts have to hitch rides on Russian rockets.
8. True
9. a) 1 month
10. It would be an even greater achievement because those flights would be the first manned missions to space from U.S. soil (since the space shuttle was retired in 2011). **(Answers may vary slightly)**