Exploring Space
Guidelines for Teachers/Team Leaders

- Use this guide with small groups or as an individual activity to investigate six historic spacecraft that transported astronauts as they explored space.

- Let students know that the Mercury, Gemini and Apollo spacecraft are the actual spacecraft that carried the astronauts. The Lunar Module on display was a test module; the original is still on the moon. The Skylab on display was a backup. The Space Shuttle is a model. However, you can see a full-size Space Shuttle test vehicle at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly, Virginia.

- Instruct students to look carefully at each artifact. They will find the answers by examining the spacecraft, not the labels.

Check below for answers:

**Mercury Friendship 7**
The letters on the eye chart are JG.

**Gemini IV**
There are 16 control jets in the dark cylinder at the top.

**Apollo 11 Command Module**
The heat shield has a honeycomb pattern.
For another activity about the heat shield, ask for the Discovery Guide entitled “Touch a Falling Star.”

**Apollo Lunar Module**
The astronauts are leaving the bottom section.

**Skylab Orbital Workshop**
Because there is no gravity, astronauts can sleep “standing up.”

**Space Shuttle**
The space shuttle is in the vertical position for launch.