



Rocket Rocket

What is the ISS?

- The International Space Station (ISS) is a large spacecraft that orbits around the Earth.
- Astronauts live on board and use it to investigate more about space.

Photo: International Space Station.

Children Grow Seeds From Space

Can seeds that have travelled through space be grown? Well, scientists and school children have teamed up to find out!

One million seeds of **rocket** were rocketed into space and spent six months on the International Space station (ISS).

Dr Jake Chandler, a scientist involved in the project, said that sending seeds to space was crucial to “growing plants that support human exploration of space, Mars and other worlds.”

When the seeds were returned to Earth, some were given to school children to grow.

The children carefully watched the results. To keep it a **fair test** they were also given seeds that did not go into space.

The results **varied** from school to school, but, generally, the space seeds grew less well.

Scientists think this could be for several reasons. When the seeds were on board the ISS, they absorbed 100 times more **radiation** than the ones on Earth. They might also have been affected by the vibrations of the rocket. Either or both of these things could have affected the

seeds, and therefore the growth of the plants, once they were back on Earth.

Although the space seeds did not grow as well as those which never went into space, it is still good news. This is because, despite all they had been through, the plants were still able to grow.

Dr Jake Chandler thinks that because the seeds survived, “eating home-grown salad on Mars may be one small step closer.”

Who knows what will be on an astronaut's menu next?

Glossary

Have a look at the glossary on the following page. The definitions have been muddled up. Match the correct word to the correct definitions.

Challenge: Find 3 other words that you are unsure of. Use a dictionary to find the definition.

Glossary

rocket		Different.
fair test		Energy that moves from one place to another, such as cosmic rays..
varied		A test which changes one variable
radiation		A lettuce leaf often used in salads.