Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

Circle group

Think about a slice of bread. Little crumbs fall on the table. At home, crumbs just drop down.

In a spaceship, things float. Crumbs do not fall. They drift in the air. They can get in an astronaut's eyes or nose. They can float into machines and cause trouble.

So astronauts often eat tortillas. A tortilla is flat and soft. It makes very few crumbs. Astronauts spread food on it and roll it up. Then they take a bite.

It is a simple idea. It keeps the spaceship neat.

Questions

1. What do crumbs do in a spaceship?

_____

_____

2. Where can floating crumbs go?

_____

_____

3. What is a tortilla like?

_____

_____

4. What do astronauts do with a tortilla?

_____

_____

5. Why would bread be a bad choice in space?

_____

_____

Words to know

crumbs: tiny bits that fall off bread
float: to drift in the air instead of falling
tortilla: a thin, flat bread
neat: clean and tidy

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

Triangle group

Think about eating a slice of bread. Little crumbs fall on the table. At home, the crumbs just drop down.

In a spaceship, things float. Crumbs do not fall. They drift through the air, and they can get in an astronaut's eyes or nose. They can even float into machines and cause trouble.

So astronauts often eat tortillas. A tortilla is flat and soft, and it makes very few crumbs. Astronauts can spread food on a tortilla and roll it up. Then they take a bite.

It is a simple idea, and it keeps the spaceship neat. Even in space, a clean place to live matters.

Questions

1. What do crumbs do in a spaceship?

_____

_____

2. Where can floating crumbs end up?

_____

_____

3. What is a tortilla like?

_____

_____

4. What do astronauts do with a tortilla?

_____

_____

5. Why would bread be a bad choice in space?

_____

_____

Words to know

crumbs: tiny bits that fall off bread
float: to drift in the air instead of falling
tortilla: a thin, flat bread
neat: clean and tidy

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

Square group

Think about what happens when you eat a slice of bread. Little crumbs scatter across the table. At home, those crumbs simply drop downward.

Inside a spaceship, however, everything floats. Crumbs do not fall. They drift through the air, where they can get into an astronaut's eyes or nose. They can even float into delicate machines and cause serious trouble.

For this reason, astronauts often eat tortillas. A tortilla is flat and soft, and it produces very few crumbs. Astronauts can spread food across a tortilla and roll it up before taking a bite.

It is a simple idea, yet it helps keep the whole spaceship neat. Even in space, a clean place to live matters.

Questions

1. What do crumbs do inside a spaceship?

_____

_____

2. Where can floating crumbs end up?

_____

_____

3. What is a tortilla like?

_____

_____

4. What can astronauts do with a tortilla before taking a bite?

_____

_____

5. Why would bread be a poor choice for astronauts?

_____

_____

Words to know

crumbs: tiny bits that fall off bread
float: to drift in the air instead of falling
tortilla: a thin, flat bread
neat: clean and tidy

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

Easier · 89 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.7

1. They float and drift in the air.
2. In an astronaut's eyes or nose, or into machines.
3. It is flat and soft, and it makes few crumbs.
4. They spread food on it and roll it up.
5. It makes lots of crumbs that would float around.

Triangle: Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

This passage · 106 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.7

1. They float and drift through the air.
2. In an astronaut's eyes or nose, or in machines.
3. It is flat and soft, and it makes few crumbs.
4. They spread food on it and roll it up.
5. It makes lots of crumbs, and the crumbs would float around.

Square: Why Astronauts Eat Tortillas

Harder · 116 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.2

1. They float and drift through the air.
2. In an astronaut's eyes or nose, or inside machines.
3. It is flat and soft, and it produces very few crumbs.
4. Spread food across it and roll it up.
5. It makes many crumbs, and they would float all around the ship.