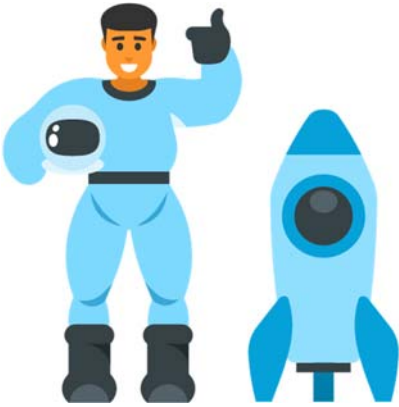


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Vocabulary Voyage

**Directions:** Read the passage carefully. Use the **Word Bank** to fill in each blank with the most appropriate vocabulary word. Make sure the passage makes sense when you reread it. Each word from the Word Bank will be used **once only**.

orbit

moon

launch

awe

cosmos

### The Skyward Journey

Long ago, humans dreamed of leaving Earth to explore the (1) \_\_\_\_\_ beyond. At first, they sent small machines to gather data and take pictures. These machines, called satellites, circled the planet in (2) \_\_\_\_\_ paths, sending valuable information back to scientists.

Eventually, brave astronauts climbed aboard rockets and soared into the sky. The (3) \_\_\_\_\_ of launching a rocket required careful planning, as even the smallest mistake could cause disaster. When astronauts finally reached orbit, they gazed out the windows in (4) \_\_\_\_\_, amazed by the curve of Earth and the glittering stars beyond.

Today, space travel continues to grow. Countries and private companies are working together to build bases on the (5) \_\_\_\_\_, hoping one day to step even farther, onto the dusty surface of Mars.