

Name _____



Debating Space

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Work with your classmates to consider each tricky question. Decide which QAR type the question belongs to (**Right There, Think and Search, Author and Me, On My Own**). Be ready to **justify your choice** with evidence from the text and your reasoning. During the debate, listen to others' arguments: if you disagree, explain why politely.

The First Spacewalk

In 1965, astronaut Alexei Leonov of the Soviet Union became the first human to walk in space. He stepped outside his spacecraft, connected only by a tether, and floated freely above Earth. The walk lasted about 12 minutes, but it was extremely dangerous. Leonov's suit ballooned in the vacuum of space, making it difficult for him to move. He barely managed to get back inside the spacecraft by releasing some of the air in his suit. Despite the risks, the spacewalk was a historic milestone that proved humans could survive and work outside their spacecraft. It paved the way for future missions, including the Apollo moon landings and today's International Space Station activities.

1. What problem did Leonov face with his space suit?
2. Why was the first spacewalk considered a historic milestone?
3. How do you think Leonov felt as he floated above Earth?
4. Could the Apollo missions have happened without Leonov's spacewalk? Why or why not?
5. Would you personally want to go on a spacewalk? Explain.
6. What evidence from the passage shows that space travel was risky in the 1960s?