

Read the selection below and answer the following questions.

## Hadfield Is Out of This World

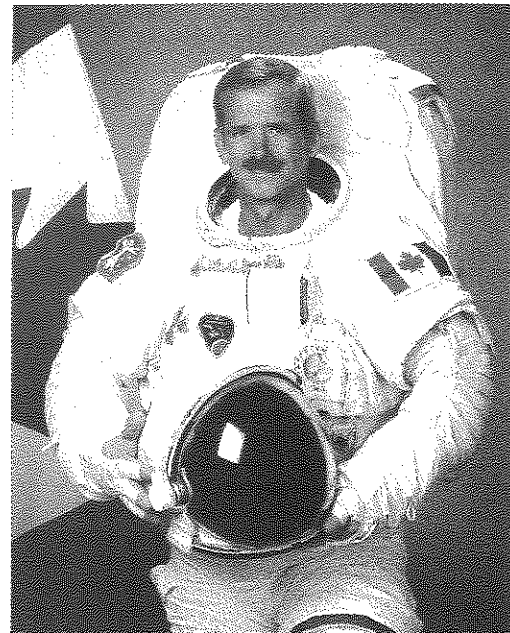


Photo Credit: NASA

Astronaut Colonel Chris Hadfield is known for a lot of firsts: the first Canadian space shuttle mission specialist; the first Canadian to operate the Canadarm in orbit; the first and only Canadian to ever board the Russian space station, *Mir*; the first Canadian to leave a spacecraft and float freely in space, but becoming the first Canadian commander of the *International Space Station* (or ISS) on March 13, 2013, might be the most memorable of all.

Chris was born in Sarnia, Ontario and raised in Milton. When Chris was only nine years old, he watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon. He attributes this as the spark that ignited his interest in space travel.

With an educational background in mechanical engineering, Chris became a fighter pilot and then a test pilot. He was chosen to become one of four new Canadian astronauts from a pool of 5,330 applicants in 1992.

Although Chris was in space in 1995 and 2001, his final mission was Expedition 34/35 to the ISS, and it began when he was launched aboard the Russian spacecraft, *Soyuz*, on December 19, 2012.

On March 13, 2013, Hadfield became commander of the space station. He was described by *Forbes Magazine* as “perhaps the most social media savvy astronaut to leave earth.” With the help of his son, Evan, he obtained over one million Twitter followers.

Besides performing his usual duties on board the *International Space Station* such as conducting experiments, exercising and commanding the station, Chris took thousands of breathtaking photos, created videos explaining how things are done differently in space, answered questions from the media and students via video link, and recorded music.

Hadfield sang “Is Somebody Singing” in space, a song created in collaboration with the band The Barenaked Ladies. He sang with singers across Canada for the national “Music Monday” program. Hadfield also released a music video recorded on the *International Space Station* of a modified version of the song “Space Oddity” by David Bowie. The video received over 22 million views on YouTube.

Many believe that Colonel Hadfield’s popularity and excellent use of social media has brought heightened attention to space exploration. He took fantastic pictures, made space accessible, and “brought us along with him.” Chris Hadfield is certainly one Canadian who is out of this world.



Photo Credit: NASA

Written for *The OSSLT Literacy Lab* by Heather Down, author of *Postcards from Space: The Chris Hadfield Story* published by Wintertickle Press, 2013. Used with permission.

Multiple-Choice (Mark the best answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 1 When did Chris first become interested in space travel?
- A when he became a fighter pilot
  - B when he studied mechanical engineering
  - C when he watched Neil Armstrong walk on the moon
  - D when he became a test pilot
- 2 Which word is closest in meaning to “savvy” as used in paragraph 5?
- A wise
  - B stylish
  - C talented
  - D capable
- 3 Why is a colon used in paragraph 1?
- A It joins two independent clauses.
  - B It introduces a list.
  - C It emphasizes content to follow.
  - D It joins elements of a series.
- 4 How did Chris travel to the ISS for Expedition 34/35?
- A He went in the space shuttle.
  - B He went to the space station *Mir*.
  - C He went in the *Soyuz*.
  - D He went in an *Apollo* rocket.
- 5 What statistic indicated that Chris’s activities on the ISS were popular?
- A There were 5,330 applicants in 1992.
  - B He had over one million Twitter followers.
  - C He was in space in 1995, 2001, and 2012–2013.
  - D The ISS Expedition numbers were 34/35.
- 6 What was one activity that Chris did **not** perform on the ISS?
- A record videos
  - B speak with media and students
  - C sing songs with musicians
  - D create paintings about space
- 7 What literacy device is used in paragraph 8?
- A metaphor
  - B simile
  - C pun
  - D personification
- 8 Why did Chris Hadfield’s expedition bring heightened attention to space exploration?
- A his popularity and use of social media
  - B his unique skills as a pilot
  - C his ability to conduct experiments in space
  - D his Canadian background

Multiple-Choice (Mark the best answer on the Student Answer Sheet.)

- 9 What is the purpose of the quotation marks around “Is Somebody Singing” in paragraph 7?
- A to set it apart
  - B to indicate it is a direct quote
  - C to indicate it is a TV show
  - D to indicate it is the name of a song

End of Section I.

Continue to Section J.