


**English Class Worksheet--1**

Read the article below, and then answer the questions on the opposite page.










## First Chinese manned space flight



On 14th September 2003, China made history. 38-year-old Yang Liwei, China's first *taikonaut* (originating from the Chinese word for 'space' – *taikong*), was sent into space on a historic spaceflight. The rocket was launched with the command module attached and *taikonaut* Yang Liwei inside. The launch site was in the Gobi desert. Ten minutes after lift-off, Yang Liwei went into orbit around the Earth.

China had been preparing for this mission for ten years and became only the third nation on the Earth to carry out a manned space mission. The Chinese *taikonaut's* first words from space were, "I feel good" – when he radioed mission control 34 minutes after lift-off to confirm the success of the launch.

China's first space traveller ate traditionally prepared Chinese food during the spaceflight; this included

diced chicken with rice. A drink of medicinal herbs was on his menu to strengthen him for his mission.

Yang Liwei spoke to his family during his orbits of the earth and told his eight-year-old son that the Earth, their home, looked beautiful from space. Liwei's wife was also involved in the space programme and worked at ground control.

China's mission has been recognised as a step forward for all humankind. On board the international space station, the Russian cosmonaut and American astronaut on duty were pleased to hear of China's success, too.

After 21 hours in space and 14 orbits of the Earth, the *taikonaut* finally touched down at a landing site in Inner Mongolia and immediately became a new Chinese hero.

(a) What is the origin of the word *taikonaut*?

..... [1]

(b) What were the first indications that the launch had been successfully carried out?

..... [1]

(c) What gave Yang Liwei strength for the flight?

..... [1]

(d) How did Liwei's wife participate in the programme?

..... [1]

(e) How did other space travellers react to the news of China's space mission?

..... [1]

[Total: 5]