

1 Read the headline and the lead

This headline includes a pun. So we already know that this report has something to do with _____ and _____.

Which questions are answered by this lead paragraph?

- Who? Where?
- What (are they doing)?
- How? When? Why?

2 Specialist words

Watch out for tricky and specialist vocabulary. There are many in this report. Add three more examples to this list: NASA, urine, reclaimed,

3 Bring your own knowledge

What do you know already? Your understanding will build on your knowledge.

- Have you heard of NASA?
- Do you know what the ISS is?
- Do you understand the idea of recycling?

PEE-CYCLING!

NASA has updated the International Space Station (ISS)'s urine recycling system – a development that will make long-distance space travel easier.

Since 2009, the American space agency has been using a machine to get back water from astronauts' pee. Now experts have developed a new chemical solution called Alternate Urine Pretreatment (AUP) which can reclaim a higher percentage of water from the wee – as much as 90%.



Urine is treated in a special machine that removes water

A few droplets of AUP are released whenever the ISS toilet is flushed. The reclaimed water is then made pure before being consumed by the astronauts.

The reason this is so useful is that it means less water needs to be transported to the ISS. Ferrying large amounts of heavy water from Earth is expensive and time-consuming. Recycling water from astronauts' pee will be essential if humans are to reach Mars and other deep-space destinations.

4 Find the facts

What is NASA trying to do with astronauts' wee?

How does the AUP system help?

Why is it so important to recycle water in space?

5 Make connections to increase your understanding

Be prepared to build understanding between sentences.

- The term NASA is defined later on in the article. Can you find and underline it?
- You have to wait to find out what the recycled water is used for. Find and underline the words that tell you.

6 Opinions and questions

What's your reaction to this news story?

- Do you think humans should travel to Mars in the future?
- Why do you think NASA is spending so much time trying to recycle water from pee?
- Would you mind drinking water made from recycled wee?