

# Snoopy's Special Mission

In February 2022, NASA plans to send a spacecraft named *Orion* to orbit the Moon and return to Earth. This first test flight will not have any people on it. The mission will help test the new spacecraft. It will be the first step in NASA's Artemis mission to send astronauts to the Moon.

Snoopy will be a passenger on *Orion*. Snoopy is brave and adventurous and has been to space before. This time he will be the Zero Gravity Indicator — the ZGI. When Snoopy starts to float inside the spacecraft, all of us watching here on Earth will know that *Orion* has escaped Earth's gravity.

ZGIs have been part of space missions since 1961, when Yuri Gagarin became the first human to go into space. His ZGI was a small doll. Since then, astronauts have taken all kinds of toys and other special objects into space with them as ZGIs!

What would you choose to bring to space as your ZGI? Draw and write about it here.



**About Artemis:** To the ancient Greeks, Artemis was the goddess of the Moon. She was the twin sister of Apollo. America's earlier missions to the Moon were named for Apollo.

**Families:** Snoopy will be the ZGI (Zero Gravity Indicator) on NASA's Artemis I mission to the Moon, scheduled for February 2022! What would you choose as your family ZGI?

