



## **The Challenger Explosion**

### **Tell the Tale**

Imagine you are part of the crew on the first launch of the shuttle *Discovery* after the loss of the *Challenger*. Write 200 words about how you felt during the launch of the shuttle. What are you worried about? How do you feel when you return?



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### **Surprise Me**

Chapter Four of this book discusses the disagreement between the engineers and NASA about launching the *Challenger*. What surprised you about this? Write a few sentences about what surprised you. How would you have handled the situation if you were in charge?



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### **Dig Deeper**

Do you still have questions about the US space program after reading this book? What else do you want to know? Have an adult help you find reliable sources to learn about that part of the space program. Write a few sentences about how you did your research and what you learned from it.



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### **Another View**

NASA officials felt that they listened to the concerns of the engineers before the *Challenger* disaster. They thought the chance of the cold affecting the O-rings was small. With the help of an adult, find another source that tells their side of the story. Write a short essay comparing the new source's point of view with that of this book's author. How is the information from each source the same or different? Why?