

Smokey Bear Storybooks - Bears in Space!!
HelpGood, Inc
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22 Pages

Page 1 Title Page (Illustration - Smokey Bear stands at a window of the International Space Station. He stares at the Earth in the distance, ever watchful.)

Bears in Space!! A Smokey Bear Storybook

Page 2 (Illustration - Smokey bear's alarm is ringing on his bedside table. Smokey sits straight up in bed, scared by the alarm's sudden noise.)

Ding ding ding ding!!

Smokey Bear's alarm rang out into the early morning and he sat straight up in bed, scared awake by the sudden loud noise. Smokey shut off the alarm and looked at the time: 5:30 A.M.. Smokey blinked a couple times - he couldn't believe how early it was!

Page 3 (Illustration - Smokey stares at his calendar with a look of concentration on his face. The calendar's date, May 15 2012, is circled in red marker.)

Smokey got out of bed and looked at his calendar. In bright red ink the date was circled: Tuesday May 15, 2012. Smokey racked his brains trying to think what day it was.

"That's right!" he said to himself, "I'm going into space today! I sure can't wait to see the International Space Station. But, I really do wonder how I'll be useful. I'm just a bear, after all!"

Page 4 (Illustration - Smokey Bear heads out of his door to go to Kazakhstan!)

Smokey was so excited once he knew what was in store for him that he got ready as quickly as he could. He was more than a little nervous, and his hands shook some as he got ready. He put on his dungarees, buckled his belt, donned his hat, and grabbed his shovel. He was out the door in record time! Smokey was as ready as he could be to launch up into the universe.

Looking through his flight schedule he saw he was supposed to meet at the Baikonur Cosmodrome. Where's that? Smokey was in Kazakhstan! He had never been to Kazakhstan before, but this entire trip was going to be one of monumental firsts for Smokey!

Page 5 (Illustration - Smokey Bear and Astronaut Joe Acaba shake hands, smiles on both of their faces. The rest of the Baikonur Cosmodrome in the background.)

When Smokey arrived at the Baikonur Cosmodrome, he was met by fellow American and Astronaut Joe Acaba.

"Smokey Bear, it's an honor to meet you!" Joe said enthusiastically. He told Smokey how much fire prevention meant to him growing up, and how excited he was to have Smokey on the blastoff to the International Space Station.

"I've always wanted to meet a real-life astronaut, Joe!" Smokey said. "But getting to fly into space with an astronaut is going to be the dream of a lifetime!"

"You'll be one of us soon enough, Smokey! Come with me," Joe said. "I want to introduce you to the rest of the crew."

Pages 6-7 (Illustration - Smokey Bear, Joe Acaba, and Russian Cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revin all stand around the Baikonur Cosmodrome as they speak with one another.)

Smokey followed Joe through the Baikonur Cosmodrome where they met up with Russian Cosmonauts Gennady Padalka and Sergei Revin. When Joe introduced them, the Russians had never heard of Smokey Bear before.

"In America, Smokey's an icon!" Joe exclaimed.

"It's alright, Joe," Smokey said. "I help raise awareness for wildfire prevention in America." Gennady and Sergei nodded their understanding at Smokey's important duties.

"Well," Joe said, "it's about time we start getting ready for the long journey to the Space Station."

"How long will it take us, Joe?" Smokey asked. "I'm used to roaming the forest but I've never roamed outer space before."

"It takes about three days to get to the Space Station from here on Earth. We'll get to see so much of the universe like you've never seen it before. We might be a little tight squeeze in our ship but don't be nervous, Smokey - you'll get used to the tight space."

"Three days? Three whole days!?! Boy, I might as well hibernate!" Smokey joked.

Joe and the Russian Cosmonauts laughed at Smokey's surprise. Joe gestured to Smokey to follow him, and the group continued deeper inside the building.

Page 8 (Illustration - Smokey Bear puts on a space suit while his fellow colleagues do the same around him.)

The group stopped inside a room full of lockers and spacesuits. Joe handed Smokey a spacesuit.

"It's an extra-large," he said. "I figure you'll need it, since you're so big, Smokey!" Smokey took the spacesuit from Joe, who gave Smokey a reassuring smile. "Someone like you definitely deserves to see our beautiful planet from outer space."

Smokey put on the spacesuit and was ready to go, along with everyone else.

Page 9 (Illustration - Smokey Bear and the others walk across a platform to their Soyuz spacecraft.)

The entire group was excited with anticipation for their launch as they boarded the platform into the Soyuz rocket that would take them to the Space Station.

"Here, Smokey," Joe said. "You'll be sitting next to me." Smokey thanked Joe and sat down in his seat. He made sure to strap himself into the seat and was ready to go. Buckled into their designated seats for the journey ahead, and reviewed the safety procedures for a smooth launch.

Page 10 (Illustration - The astronauts and Smokey are all strapped back into their seats. Smokey sits next to Joe while the Russian Cosmonauts sit next to each other.)

"Is everyone ready?" Gennady asked. The three nodded their affirmations. "Alright, then it's time to start the countdown." Gennady pushed a button on the ship's front console. the ship tilted

backwards until everyone was staring toward the sky, despite being unable to see outside. The ship rocked and rumbled noisily and everyone held onto their seats.

Page 11 (Illustration - Outside of the rocket, tiny-looking crew members run away as the rocket's engines ignite.)

Outside, the crew was finishing up preparations for the launch. The countdown timer started.

"Ten seconds to liftoff. Nine, eight, seven, six, five, four, three, two, one. Liftoff."

The Soyuz's engines roared and rumbled and for a few moments, the rocket didn't move. Smokey sat still anticipating being the first bear in space.

Pages 12-13 (Illustration - The entire cockpit is rumbling and shaking around. Smokey's face is pushed back due to the extreme G-forces that were being exerted on his body.)

And then with a huge heave up, the humongous ship finally moved from its berth. The rocket's engines pushed them into the air. The ship was so big, it appeared to move slowly, but in reality it was moving faster than Smokey had ever done before. Smokey breathed a sigh of relief.

Smokey felt the rocket lift from the ground as he was pushed into the back of his seat by the sheer force of the liftoff. He could hardly move! The rocket continued up and up and Smokey could feel his cheeks being pushed to the back of his face. He felt like he must look funny which made him smile even more!

Pages 14-15 (Illustration - On one side of the panel, smokey looks through one of the open windows of the Soyuz spacecraft. The panel continues off, revealing the massive expanse of space and stars, and in the center of his view, the Earth.)

Luckily, the intense pressure from liftoff only lasted a short while - not even ten minutes! Smokey was in awe. In just that short amount of time, they'd completely left the Earth's atmosphere and were technically in space. While it didn't take long to get into space, it would take them some time to get to the International Space Station.

After they'd broken atmosphere, the windows on the Soyuz spacecraft opened to reveal the great vastness of space. Smokey looked out the window and could see the stars better than even the clearest night spent in the forest. He was truly in awe of what he was so lucky to see! Smokey looked through another window and saw the Earth in all its glory. He recognized the forests by their huge plots of green, and it made his heart swell to know he helped protect them.

Page 16 (Illustration - Outside in space, the Soyuz docks with the International Space Station.)

After spending three days in their ship acclimating to space, checking their systems, and having some fun doing somersaults in zero gravity, the ship made it to the International Space Station. It was time to dock. With expert handling the Soyuz docked successfully with the much larger International Space Station and everyone in the Soyuz cheered triumphantly.

Page 17 (Illustration - Smokey looks around at the new surroundings of the International Space Station and stretches his arms high above his head.)

After releasing their safety harnesses, the crew boarded the International Space Station, thrilled to be out of their cramped little rocket. Smokey stretched out the moment he found the space.

"Ahh," Smokey said contentedly, "It feels like it's been forever since I last stretched! It feels sooo good." All around Smokey, his shipmates were doing the very same thing. It had been a long, cramped journey for them all.

Pages 18-19 (Illustration - Smokey and Joe walk around the ISS as Joe shows Smokey around the place.)

"Well, Smokey," Joe started, "what do you think of the place?" Smokey looked around the space station some.

"I love it!" Smokey proclaimed. "But remind me again what I'll be doing up here? Let's just say I'm a little out of my element." Joe chuckled at Smokey's question.

"Well, Smokey, we may not be as "paws-on" as you are, but from space we actually do a lot to help prevent wildfires!" Joe responded.

"Great! Then let's get to work!" said Smokey.

Page 20-21 (Illustration - satellite imagery of wildfires)

"We make a lot of observations about the Earth while we're up here, Smokey. We observe the planet's climate, we conduct research about plant growth, we run experiments on combustion and material sciences. We even investigate and test new technology up here, that can help us better prevent wildfires down on Earth. We've developed a lot of cutting edge tools to help firefighters battle wildfires. These tools help scientists understand the impact of wildfire and smoke on Earth's climate."

"Wow," exclaimed Smokey. "It's great to know that the folks working on the ground have a lot of support even up here in outer space."

Pages 21-22 (End) (Illustration - Smokey and Joe give each other an awesome, massive high-five! Big smiles shine on each of their faces.)

"Yes," Joe agreed, "it's pretty amazing. And to think, you're going to get to be here for four whole months with us! Imagine how much you'll learn and grow."

"I'm really excited to start my work, Joe. I'm sure you and the others are going to be great teachers. I have to say, though, I already miss the Earth."

"Aww, well, we all get homesick now and again, Smokey," Joe said reassuringly. "But don't worry, the Earth is right there, always within our sight, always waiting for us to come back home. But, four months will be over before you know it, and you'll want to come back here in no time."

"You know, you're absolutely right, Joe! I can't wait!" Smokey was all smiles as Joe showed him more of the International Space Station and Smokey prepared himself for the fun he would be having in the coming months.

The End.