New Spoon for Astronauts

A new 'chopstick spoon' to help astronauts eat in space has been designed by Nikolas Grafakos, who hopes that the spoon will help them eat lots of different types of food, especially during longer trips, like to Mars.

Part of the Zero-G Cutlery collection, the new spoon enables astronauts to grab food in the zero gravity environment more easily, as they're not relying on water surface tension to hold the food on the **utensil** or gravity to pull it down. Normally, the food needs to be very mushy and wet in order to stick to the spoon.

The spoon that astronauts use now looks like an ordinary spoon, and it's just a little bit longer. However, the new spoon is something between chopsticks and a spoon, and it allows astronauts to pinch the food at the end and control where the food goes a lot easier. The new spoon could **potentially** allow the introduction of drier food and more variety in food **textures**.

Difficult words: **utensil** (a tool that people use in a household or a restaurant to eat), **potentially** (with the capacity to develop or happen in the future), **texture** (how something feels when you touch or eat it).

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Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *utensil, potentially and texture*

2. What is Nikolas Grafakos main objective for making the new chopstick spoon for astronauts?

3. What is special about the new spoon for astronauts?

4. How does the new spoon compare to the spoon astronauts use now?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Did you realize how difficult it is to be an astronaut?

2. Can you imagine eating only very mushy and wet food every meal for period of time?

3. How helpful do you think is the new design of spoon to astronauts?

4. Can you think of any other things our astronuats need in space that will make their lives easier?