

**Why do astronauts need helmets?**

* For protection
* To communicate with Mission Control
* To keep oxygen at the right pressure around the astronaut’s head

Visor

**Materials:**

Pre-cut paper plate

Pipe-cleaner

Popsicle stick

Tape

Art materials to decorate your helmet.

Astronaut Alan B. Shepard became the first American in Space in 1961. (NASA)

Microphones



**How do I make an Astronaut Helmet?**

* Cut across the middle of the **plate** to make a hole for your face. Now the top half of the plate is your visor.
* Draw circles for hinges for the visor on either side of your helmet. Decorate it with the **art materials**.
* Ask an adult to punch a hole on either side of the plate. Add your microphones. Push the ends of the **pipe-cleaner** through both holes. Bend the pipe-cleaner in front of the helmet to form two microphones.
* Tape the **popsicle stick** to the back of the helmet.
* Visit the Space Exhibit (map #9) and watch Astronaut Alan Shepard on the video as he uses his microphone to talk to Mission Control back on Earth! Explore the *real* space craft that carried Astronaut Shepard on his historic flight.