Paragraph 1: In 1902, Georges Méliès made and released a movie called *A Trip to the Moon*. In this movie, the spaceship was a small capsule, shaped like a bullet, that was loaded into a giant cannon and aimed at the moon.

Paragraph 2: This movie was based on a book that came out many years earlier by an author named Jules Verne. One of the fans of the book was a Russian man, Konstantin Tsiolkovsky. The book made him think. Could one really shoot people out of a cannon and have them get safely to the moon? He decided one couldn't, but it got him thinking of other ways one could get people to the moon. He spent his life considering this problem and came up with many solutions.

Paragraph 3: Some of Tsiolkovsky's solutions gave scientists in America and Russia ideas when they began to think about space travel. They also thought about airplanes they and other people had made, and even big bombs that could fly themselves very long distances.

Paragraph 4: Many scientists spent years working together to solve the problem. They drew and discussed different designs until they agreed on the ones that were the best. Then, they built small models of those designs, and tested and tested them until they felt ready to build even bigger models. They made full-scale rockets, which they launched without any people inside, to test for safety. Often the rockets weren't safe, and they exploded right there on the launch pad, or shot off in crazy directions like a balloon that you blow up and release without tying it first. After many, many tests, they started to send small animals into space. Only after a long time did they ever put a person inside a rocket and shoot him into space.

Paragraph 5: Even after they began sending people into space, scientists were still trying to improve the shape of the rockets. The design changed many times, and eventually ended up looking like a half-rocket and half-airplane. The machine called space shuttle was used for many years. Now, the government lets private companies try their own designs for spaceships, and they have come up with many different, crazy looking- machines.

36. In the movie ***A Trip to the Moon***, the spaceship was sent to the moon A. in a capsule B. in a bullet

C. by a cannon D. by a gun

37. The movie was based on a book written by .

A. Konstantin Tsiolkovsky B. an unknown author

C. Georges Méliès D. Jules Verne

38. Before the invention of a spaceship, possible solutions of space travel included all of the following EXCEPT .

A. bombs B. balloons

C. airplanes D. rockets

39. What is Paragraph 4 mainly about?

A. It took a long time and hard work to send a person into space.

B. American scientists worked better than Russian scientists.

C. Scientists from Russia and America had close cooperation.

D. The design of the rocket was inspired by the movie *A Trip to the Moon.*

40. The word "shoot" (Para. 4) is closest in meaning to" ".

A. send with great force B. break into many pieces

C. fix a problem D. attack with a weapon