

## Exoplanet Missions Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Exoplanet Missions trivia explores the telescopes, probes, and observing campaigns that revealed thousands of worlds orbiting distant stars. From early milestone missions to modern planet-hunters like Kepler, TESS, and the James Webb Space Telescope, the topic traces how space-based astronomy transformed exoplanets into one of the most dynamic areas of science. Expect a mix of accessible facts, surprising milestones, and deeper challenges for curious fans of space.

### HARD EXOPLANET MISSIONS TRIVIA

1. Before becoming associated with later exoplanet work, who served as project scientist for ESA's Hipparcos mission?

Answer: Michael Perryman

2. Which earlier ESA mission supplied stellar data that later proved useful when selecting exoplanet targets?

Answer: Hipparcos

3. Which mission contributes to exoplanet science by delivering extremely precise astrometry of stars?

Answer: Gaia

4. What observing method looks for planets by tracking tiny shifts in a star's position on the sky?

Answer: astrometry

5. In what year did Kepler lose its second reaction wheel, forcing the transition to the K2 mission?

Answer: 2013

6. K2's observing campaigns were arranged as a sequence of fields near what reference plane?

Answer: the ecliptic plane

7. Which planetary system became especially notable for reaching a count of eight known planets?

Answer: Kepler-90

8. AI-assisted analysis in 2017 helped uncover which specific world in the Kepler-90 system?

Answer: Kepler-90i

9. How many wide-field cameras does the Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite use?

Answer: four cameras

10. TESS cruises in a high Earth orbit locked in what resonance with the Moon?

Answer: 2:1 resonance with the Moon

11. CHEOPS was built to pin down what property of already known transiting exoplanets?

Answer: their precise sizes

12. Which ESA mission is planned specifically to survey exoplanet atmospheres?

Answer: ARIEL

13. Which future observatory is expected to carry out a microlensing exoplanet survey?

Answer: Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope

14. Roman's exoplanet microlensing survey is aimed toward which dense region of the Milky Way?

Answer: the Galactic bulge

#### FUNNY EXOPLANET MISSIONS TRIVIA

1. Which exoplanet looks deep blue but definitely does not offer a calm beach vacation, thanks to its extreme weather?

Answer: HD 189733 b

2. What kind of particles were reported in the atmosphere of HD 189733 b, giving it a very unfriendly kind of sparkle?

Answer: Silicate particles

3. Which exoplanet became famous for reports of iron vapor on its dayside, basically turning 'metal' into a weather theme?

Answer: WASP-76b

4. The study of WASP-76b used which instrument whose name sounds more like a caffeine order than a spectrograph?

Answer: ESPRESSO

5. OGLE-2005-BLG-390Lb was discovered by a method that depends on gravity acting like a cosmic magnifying trick. What was that method?

Answer: Gravitational microlensing

6. In what year was OGLE-2005-BLG-390Lb discovered, as hinted pretty loudly by its own name tag?

Answer: 2005

7. Microlensing discoveries often rely on what kind of stellar setup: a permanent arrangement or a brief cosmic lineup that happens once?

Answer: Brief one-time alignments of stars

8. Which planet got its designation directly from the mission name, saving everyone from a branding meeting?

Answer: CoRoT-7b

9. CoRoT-7b was notable for being one of the first known examples of what kind of world crossing in front of its star?

Answer: A transiting rocky exoplanet

10. If a giant planet hugs its star so closely that personal space is basically gone, what nickname does astronomy give it?

Answer: Hot Jupiter

11. A 'super-Earth' is bigger than Earth but lighter than which planet?

Answer: Neptune

12. What term is used for a small gaseous exoplanet that sounds like Neptune ordered in a compact size?

Answer: Mini-Neptune

13. Transit surveys are basically watching for stars to do what tiny dramatic move over and over again?

Answer: Tiny repeated dips in brightness

#### FUN EXOPLANET MISSIONS TRIVIA

1. Which Kepler world made history as the mission's first confirmed rocky exoplanet?

Answer: Kepler-10b

2. What was the first confirmed circumbinary planet found through transit observations?

Answer: Kepler-16b

3. A circumbinary planet is a planet that orbits what?

Answer: Two stars

4. Which exoplanet was the first Earth-size planet discovered in the habitable zone of another star?

Answer: Kepler-186f

5. Which star system is famous for hosting seven known Earth-size planets?

Answer: TRAPPIST-1

6. In what year were three TRAPPIST-1 planets announced to be in their star's habitable zone?

Answer: 2017

7. Which exoplanet is so close to its star that its year lasts only about 1.1 days?

Answer: WASP-12b

8. Which star has a planet, Beta Pictoris b, that was directly imaged around it?

Answer: Beta Pictoris

9. Who helped lead the imaging discovery of the HR 8799 planets?

Answer: Christian Marois

10. Which instrument was built specifically to directly image exoplanets?

Answer: Gemini Planet Imager

11. SPHERE is an exoplanet imager mounted on which observatory?

Answer: The Very Large Telescope

12. Which space telescope has observed exoplanet atmospheres?

Answer: The James Webb Space Telescope

13. Which exoplanet's atmosphere was among the first highlighted by JWST in 2022?

Answer: WASP-96b

#### EXOPLANET MISSIONS FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Who co-discovered the first confirmed exoplanets in 1992?

Answer: Aleksander Wolszczan

2. The first confirmed exoplanets found in 1992 orbited what object?

Answer: PSR B1257+12

3. Which scientist was part of the team that detected an exoplanet atmosphere in 2002?

Answer: David Charbonneau

4. Which exoplanet became the first one observed transiting its star?

Answer: HD 209458 b

5. What nickname was given to HD 209458 b?

Answer: Osiris

6. At La Silla Observatory in Chile, which instrument is installed to help search for planets?

Answer: HARPS

7. HARPS found planets by making very precise measurements of what?

Answer: radial velocity

8. Which observatory has been closely associated with major exoplanet discoveries?

Answer: Geneva Observatory

9. Which scientist has worked on exoplanet searches with HARPS?

Answer: Christophe Lovis

10. Who was a leading planet hunter in radial-velocity surveys?

Answer: Geoffrey Marcy

11. Which researcher contributed to both exoplanet detection and theory?

Answer: Greg Laughlin

12. Who is known for work on exoplanet atmospheres and mission concepts?

Answer: Sara Seager

## EASY EXOPLANET MISSIONS TRIVIA

1. In what year did NASA's Kepler Space Telescope launch?

Answer: 2009

2. What does the acronym TESS stand for?

Answer: Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite

3. TESS blasted off in which year?

Answer: 2018

4. From which Florida launch site did TESS lift off?

Answer: Cape Canaveral

5. Kepler found most of its planets using what method?

Answer: the transit method

6. The first confirmed exoplanets around a Sun-like star were announced in what year?

Answer: 1995

7. Which scientist shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics for exoplanet work along with Didier Queloz?

Answer: Michel Mayor

8. What is the name of the first exoplanet found around a Sun-like star?

Answer: 51 Pegasi b

9. Which French-led space mission searched for exoplanets?

Answer: CoRoT

10. CoRoT launched in which year?

Answer: 2006

11. From which launch site in Kazakhstan did CoRoT depart?

Answer: Baikonur Cosmodrome

12. Which ESA mission focuses on known exoplanets?

Answer: CHEOPS

13. CHEOPS launched in what year?

Answer: 2019

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/exoplanet-missions>