

History of NASA Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

History of NASA trivia traces the story of the U.S. space agency from its founding in 1958 through the Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo programs, the Space Shuttle era, and today's missions beyond Earth orbit. It offers a lively way to test what you know about astronauts, engineering breakthroughs, scientific discoveries, and the moments that made NASA a defining force in modern spaceflight.

HARD HISTORY OF NASA TRIVIA

1. On what exact date was the Space Act creating NASA signed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower?

Answer: July 29, 1958

2. Which Pasadena laboratory is managed for NASA by Caltech?

Answer: Jet Propulsion Laboratory

3. Which NASA facility in Louisiana is associated with building major external tanks and SLS core stages?

Answer: Michoud Assembly Facility

4. Inside NASA, who championed the mission mode known as Lunar Orbit Rendezvous for Apollo?

Answer: John Houbolt

5. What Apollo mission holds the distinction of being NASA's first crewed Apollo flight?

Answer: Apollo 7

6. Which Apollo mission was NASA's most recent crewed Moon landing?

Answer: Apollo 17

7. Name the year of the Challenger disaster.?

Answer: 1986

8. NASA suffered the Columbia disaster in what year?

Answer: 2003

9. What collective name was given to the set containing Hubble, Compton, Chandra, and Spitzer?

Answer: Great Observatories

10. Which member of NASA's Great Observatories launched in 1999?

Answer: Chandra X-ray Observatory

11. Which NASA space observatory launched in 2003: Chandra X-ray Observatory or Spitzer Space Telescope?

Answer: Spitzer Space Telescope

12. What spacecraft launched in 1997 on a mission to Saturn?

Answer: Cassini

13. Which famous spacecraft pair began their journeys in 1977?

Answer: Voyager

14. Which mission delivered the Curiosity rover in 2012?

Answer: Mars Science Laboratory

FUNNY HISTORY OF NASA TRIVIA

1. NASA has a round insignia with stars and a vector that somehow earned a lunch-themed nickname. What is that nickname?

Answer: The nickname is the "meatball."

2. Which squiggly-sleek NASA wordmark from 1975 sounds less like aerospace and more like something you avoid on a sidewalk after rain?

Answer: The 1975 NASA wordmark is nicknamed the "worm."

3. During the Apollo era, which leading flight director helped guide missions with a level of calm the rest of us reserve for pretending we're fine?

Answer: Gene Kranz.

4. Who was NASA's first flight director, often called Kraft Jr.?

Answer: Chris Kraft, often called Kraft Jr.

5. Apollo 11 did not leave from Parking Lot B. Which launch site at Kennedy Space Center hosted its launch?

Answer: Launch Complex 39A.

6. When the Space Shuttle came home like a very expensive glider, which California site was a frequent landing spot?

Answer: Edwards Air Force Base.

7. What vehicle carried rockets from the Vehicle Assembly Building to the launch pad at a pace best described as 'majestic traffic'?

Answer: The crawler-transporter.

8. Which NASA building has a name that sounds modest until you learn it's one of the world's largest by volume?

Answer: The Vehicle Assembly Building.

9. Which towering Moon rocket stood about 363 feet tall, basically making 'look up' the only reasonable reaction?

Answer: The Saturn V.

10. Apollo 12 returned with bits of which earlier probe, in a very literal version of 'souvenir shopping' on the Moon?

Answer: Surveyor 3.

11. Which shuttle deployed the Hubble Space Telescope in 1990, giving astronomy a really dramatic pair of glasses?

Answer: Discovery.

12. Who flew on Space Shuttle Discovery in 1984?

Answer: Judith Resnik.

13. Which astronaut flew on Space Shuttle Columbia, proving that 'Columbia passenger list' can include history-makers?

Answer: Kalpana Chawla.

FUN HISTORY OF NASA TRIVIA

1. Who got the very first turn in NASA's top office as its first administrator?

Answer: T. Keith Glennan

2. Which satellite gave the United States its first successful space hello in 1958?

Answer: Explorer 1

3. Alan Shepard rode which mission in 1961?

Answer: Mercury-Redstone 3

4. John Glenn's 1962 orbital ride had a friendly name. What was the capsule called?

Answer: Friendship 7

5. Which mission let the U.S. take its first spacewalk in 1965?

Answer: Gemini 4

6. Before moon landings came moon loops: which mission became the first crewed one to orbit the Moon?

Answer: Apollo 8

7. What year did Apollo 13 launch?

Answer: 1970

8. What was NASA's first space station called?

Answer: Skylab

9. In 1975, which project linked U.S. and Soviet spacecraft in orbit?

Answer: The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project

10. Which mission number opened the Space Shuttle era in 1981?

Answer: STS-1

11. The very first shuttle mission, STS-1, flew on which orbiter?

Answer: Columbia

12. Which famous space telescope launched in 1990 and went on to become a star of astronomy posters everywhere?

Answer: The Hubble Space Telescope

13. Which rover hitched a ride on the Mars Pathfinder mission?

Answer: Sojourner

HISTORY OF NASA FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What is the common abbreviation for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration?

Answer: NASA

2. Ames Research Center is located in which California city?

Answer: Mountain View, California

3. Which NASA research center is in Hampton, Virginia?

Answer: Langley Research Center

4. If you visit Huntsville, Alabama, which NASA center are you visiting?

Answer: Marshall Space Flight Center

5. Glenn Research Center is in what Ohio city?

Answer: Cleveland, Ohio

6. True or false: Stennis Space Center is located in Mississippi.?

Answer: True

7. For many NASA human spaceflights, Mission Control has been based in which city?

Answer: Houston

8. In space talk, what does LEO stand for?

Answer: low Earth orbit

9. A rocket's payload is best described as what?

Answer: The cargo carried by a rocket or spacecraft

10. Which NASA engineer strongly pushed the idea of lunar-orbit rendezvous for reaching the Moon?

Answer: John Houbolt

11. Who became the first woman to command a Space Shuttle mission in 1999?

Answer: Eileen Collins

12. Which astronaut became the first Black American woman in space in 1992?

Answer: Mae Jemison

EASY HISTORY OF NASA TRIVIA

1. In what year was NASA established?

Answer: 1958

2. Which federal agency came before NASA?

Answer: NACA

3. NASA's headquarters is located in which city?

Answer: Washington, D.C.

4. What was the name of the mission that first landed humans on the Moon?

Answer: Apollo 11

5. Who was the first person to walk on the Moon?

Answer: Neil Armstrong

6. What was NASA's first human spaceflight program called?

Answer: Project Mercury

7. Which program followed Project Mercury?

Answer: Project Gemini

8. Many early NASA launches took place from which Florida site?

Answer: Cape Canaveral

9. Kennedy Space Center is located on what island in Florida?

Answer: Merritt Island

10. Which NASA center is located in Houston, Texas?

Answer: Johnson Space Center

11. What was NASA's reusable orbital spacecraft program called?

Answer: Space Shuttle

12. Who became the first American woman in space in 1983?

Answer: Sally Ride

13. Which astronaut was the first American to orbit Earth?

Answer: John Glenn

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/history-of-nasa>