

Space Exploration Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Space Exploration trivia spans the launch of Sputnik in 1957, the Apollo Moon landings, space shuttle missions, and the robotic probes now exploring the solar system and beyond. This page offers a concise, family-friendly way to revisit famous firsts, surprising facts, and the science behind humanity's push into space.

HARD SPACE EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. Which mission, not Luna 2 or Luna 9, is credited with returning humanity's first photographs of the Moon's far side in 1959?

Answer: Luna 3

2. Valentina Tereshkova reached space aboard which specific mission in 1963?

Answer: Vostok 6

3. Alexei Leonov's history-making first spacewalk occurred during what mission?

Answer: Voskhod 2

4. Name the spacecraft that pulled off the first soft landing on the Moon in 1966.?

Answer: Luna 9

5. Which mission became the first successful U.S. soft landing on the Moon?

Answer: Surveyor 1

6. In 1970, which robotic lunar mission returned samples from the Moon to Earth?

Answer: Luna 16

7. What spacecraft became the first ever to orbit another planet when it entered Mars orbit in 1971?

Answer: Mariner 9

8. Which mission made the first successful U.S. landing on Mars in 1976?

Answer: Viking 1

9. The Soviet Union's final mission to return samples from the Moon, flown in 1976, was which one?

Answer: Luna 24

10. During the 1975 Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, which Soyuz mission docked with Apollo?

Answer: Soyuz 19

11. Which orbital outpost became the world's first space station in 1971?

Answer: Salyut 1

12. Launched by the Soviet Union in 1986, which long-duration station followed in the wake of earlier orbital stations?

Answer: Mir

13. Which probe made a 1986 flyby of Halley's Comet?

Answer: Giotto

14. After arriving at Venus in 1990, which spacecraft mapped the planet using radar?

Answer: Magellan

FUNNY SPACE EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. Which chimp became an early space traveler by flying on a suborbital Mercury mission in 1961?

Answer: Ham flew on a suborbital Mercury mission in 1961.

2. Before cats conquered couches, which cat became the first one launched into space in 1963?

Answer: Fêlicette became the first cat launched into space in 1963.

3. Which duo of Soviet dogs orbited Earth and returned alive in 1960, proving that fetch could in fact go very far?

Answer: Belka and Strelka orbited Earth and returned alive in 1960.

4. Apollo 10 gave its lunar module a cartoon-style nickname. What was it?

Answer: The Apollo 10 lunar module was nicknamed Snoopy.

5. If Apollo 10 sounded like a comic strip in space, what was the nickname of its command module?

Answer: The Apollo 10 command module was nicknamed Charlie Brown.

6. What was the first food eaten on the Moon, taken there for communion by Buzz Aldrin?

Answer: The first food eaten on the Moon was bread and wine.

7. Which astronaut turned part of the Moon into a very low-gravity driving range during Apollo 14?

Answer: Alan Shepard hit golf balls on the Moon during Apollo 14.

8. Who made a joking remark while stepping onto the Moon during Apollo 12?

Answer: Pete Conrad joked as he stepped onto the Moon during Apollo 12.

9. The Mars rover Sojourner got its name from which historical figure's first name?

Answer: It was named after abolitionist Sojourner Truth.

10. Which Mars mission played delivery service by carrying the little helicopter Ingenuity to the Red Planet?

Answer: Perseverance carried Ingenuity to Mars.

11. What was the name of the Soviet remote-controlled rover that cruised around the Moon?

Answer: The rover was Lunokhod 1.

12. Which Apollo 16 astronaut left a family photo on the Moon, giving lunar dust its first

home d'cor?

Answer: Charles Duke left a family photo on the Moon.

13. Which space station's first crew famously staged an informal day off in orbit in 1973?

Answer: Skylab's first crew staged an informal day off in orbit in 1973.

FUN SPACE EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. Which Saturn explorer chose a dramatic grand finale by diving into the planet's atmosphere in 2017?

Answer: Cassini

2. What was the name of the little lander that Rosetta dropped onto comet 67P in 2014?

Answer: Philae

3. Which mission brought pieces of asteroid Ryugu back to Earth in 2020?

Answer: Hayabusa2

4. Which spacecraft made history as the first to return data from the surface of another planet?

Answer: Venera 7

5. Who shared the 2019 Nobel Prize in Physics for work on exoplanets?

Answer: Didier Queloz

6. What was the name of the beep-beep pioneer that became the first artificial satellite in 1957?

Answer: Sputnik 1

7. Which dog became the first to be sent into orbit, riding aboard Sputnik 2 in 1957?

Answer: Laika

8. Who took humanity's first spacewalk in 1965?

Answer: Alexei Leonov

9. Which Apollo mission turned a near-disaster into a safe return after an in-flight explosion in 1970?

Answer: Apollo 13

10. Which mission sent back the first close-up images of Mars in 1965?

Answer: Mariner 4

11. What spacecraft was first to make it through the asteroid belt without becoming cosmic gravel?

Answer: Pioneer 10

12. Which famous space telescope began its mission with a launch in 1990?

Answer: Hubble Space Telescope

13. Which Mars rover, one of a twin pair, landed on the Red Planet in 2004?

Answer: Spirit

SPACE EXPLORATION FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Which mission landed on the Moon in 1969?

Answer: Apollo 11

2. During the Apollo 11 Moon landing, who stayed in lunar orbit while the others went down to the surface?

Answer: Michael Collins

3. True or false: The first Space Shuttle mission launched in 1981.?

Answer: True

4. Which NASA orbiter had the same name as a word meaning 'finding something new'? Space Shuttle what?

Answer: Space Shuttle Discovery

5. What is the name of the giant volcano on Mars?

Answer: Olympus Mons

6. Who improved the telescope for astronomical observation in the early 1600s?

Answer: Galileo Galilei

7. Which scientist is famous for the laws of planetary motion?

Answer: Johannes Kepler

8. Who explained gravity and planetary motion with his laws of motion?

Answer: Isaac Newton

9. Which pioneer is often called a pioneer of astronautics?

Answer: Konstantin Tsiolkovsky

10. Who was the chief designer behind early Soviet space successes?

Answer: Sergei Korolev

11. Which astronaut became the first African American in space in 1983?

Answer: Guion Bluford

12. Who was the only professional geologist to walk on the Moon?

Answer: Harrison Schmitt

EASY SPACE EXPLORATION TRIVIA

1. Who was the first person to walk on the Moon in 1969?

Answer: Neil Armstrong

2. Which astronaut took the second walk on the Moon?

Answer: Buzz Aldrin

3. Who became the first human in space in 1961?

Answer: Yuri Gagarin

4. What was the name of the first woman to fly in space?

Answer: Valentina Tereshkova

5. Which astronaut was the first American woman in space?

Answer: Sally Ride

6. Who was the first American to orbit Earth?

Answer: John Glenn

7. The abbreviation ISS refers to what space station?

Answer: International Space Station

8. What does NASA stand for?

Answer: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

9. Which planet is the largest in the Solar System?

Answer: Jupiter

10. Which planet orbits closest to the Sun?

Answer: Mercury

11. Our Solar System is part of which galaxy?

Answer: Milky Way

12. True or false: A light-year is a measure of distance.?

Answer: True

13. Which star is the closest known star to the Sun?

Answer: Proxima Centauri

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/space-exploration>