

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

Space Race Trivia trivia explores the high-stakes contest between the United States and the Soviet Union that accelerated spaceflight from Sputnik in 1957 to Apollo 11 in 1969. Expect a mix of easy, family-friendly, funny, and hard questions that spotlight famous missions, pioneering astronauts and cosmonauts, and the political rivalry behind one of the 20th century's defining events.

HARD SPACE RACE TRIVIA

1. Which U.S. satellite, launched in 1958, holds the distinction of being the nation's first to reach orbit?

Answer: Explorer 1

2. The discovery of the radiation belts surrounding Earth is credited to data from which early American satellite?

Answer: Explorer 1

3. Alexei Leonov made history with the first spacewalk during which mission?

Answer: Voskhod 2

4. In 1965, the first crewed space rendezvous was accomplished by which pair of missions?

Answer: Gemini 6A and Gemini 7

5. Which Apollo mission is remembered for the 1967 cabin fire that killed three astronauts during a ground test?

Answer: Apollo 1

6. At what launch site name did the Apollo 1 fire occur before that location later reverted to Cape Canaveral?

Answer: Cape Kennedy

7. Apollo 11 touched down in what specifically named lunar region?

Answer: Sea of Tranquility

8. How far did the first lunar roving vehicle travel during Apollo 15?

Answer: 27.8 kilometers

9. Which mission has the grim distinction of being the only one whose crew died after completing a stay aboard a space station?

Answer: Soyuz 11

10. In what year was Salyut 1 launched?

Answer: 1971

11. Which country is credited with winning the race to land the first humans on the Moon?

Answer: United States

12. Name the leading Soviet scientist associated with the Soviet space program in this era.?

Answer: Mstislav Keldysh

13. What category of setbacks was often kept from public announcement by the Soviet Union during the lunar competition?

Answer: Soviet lunar failures

14. Which Soviet heavy-lift launcher was intended to support a crewed Moon landing program?

Answer: N1 rocket

FUNNY SPACE RACE TRIVIA

1. On Apollo 11, about how long did Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin hang out on the lunar surface before heading home?

Answer: About 21 hours.

2. What did the Apollo 11 moonwalkers plant on the Moon, proving even space had room for a photo op?

Answer: A U.S. flag.

3. Which astronaut turned the Moon into the most expensive driving range ever by hitting golf balls there during Apollo 14?

Answer: Alan Shepard.

4. Who dropped a feather and a hammer together on the Moon during Apollo 15, making physics look like a stage trick?

Answer: David Scott.

5. Which astronaut smuggled a corned beef sandwich into orbit on Gemini 3, perhaps proving space menus inspire rebellion?

Answer: John Young.

6. Apollo 10 gave its lunar module a cartoon-worthy nickname. What was it?

Answer: Snoopy.

7. If Apollo 10's command module sounded like it came from a comic strip, what was its nickname?

Answer: Charlie Brown.

8. Apollo 12 astronauts brought back pieces of which robotic probe from the Moon, basically doing extraterrestrial salvage work?

Answer: Surveyor 3.

9. While Apollo 11 headed for its landing, which other spacecraft was also in lunar orbit, making the Moon feel suddenly crowded?

Answer: Luna 15.

10. Apollo 11 came home with moon rocks and dust. How much lunar material did it return to Earth?

Answer: 21.5 kilograms.

11. Apollo 12 landed near what lunar location with the delightfully stormy name Ocean of Storms?

Answer: The Ocean of Storms.

12. Which Apollo mission debuted the first astronaut-driven lunar rover, finally giving the Moon some wheels?

Answer: Apollo 15.

13. What animals became the first to orbit the Moon and return alive aboard Zond 5, in a milestone that sounds oddly slow and steady?

Answer: Tortoises.

FUN SPACE RACE TRIVIA

1. What early satellite had a beeping radio signal that people around the world could track like a cosmic ringtone?

Answer: Sputnik 1

2. Which observatory played a key role in tracking early Soviet and American space missions?

Answer: Jodrell Bank Observatory

3. About how long did the very first spacewalk last outside the spacecraft?

Answer: About 12 minutes

4. Valentina Tereshkova's solo trip to space took place on which mission?

Answer: Vostok 6

5. Which Apollo mission let Alan Shepard go from astronaut to Moon walker?

Answer: Apollo 14

6. In what year did John Glenn make his return to space at age 77?

Answer: 1998

7. Which Apollo mission became famous for not landing on the Moon after an in-flight explosion?

Answer: Apollo 13

8. What was the first human-made object to reach the Moon in 1959?

Answer: Luna 2

9. Which mission pulled off the first soft landing on the Moon in 1966?

Answer: Luna 9

10. Which 1968 mission gave tortoises an around-the-Moon trip and then brought them safely back to Earth?

Answer: Zond 5

11. What mission achieved the first successful American soft landing on the Moon?

Answer: Surveyor 1

12. Which spacecraft became the first successful one to fly by another planet when it reached Venus in 1962?

Answer: Mariner 2

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

Answer: Mariner 4

SPACE RACE FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What spacecraft carried Yuri Gagarin into space?

Answer: Vostok 1 carried Yuri Gagarin into space.

2. John Glenn flew his first orbital mission in which capsule?

Answer: John Glenn flew his first orbital mission in Friendship 7.

3. Which mission was the first to carry more than one crew member into space?

Answer: Voskhod 1 was the first mission to carry more than one crew member.

4. The first American spacewalk happened on which mission?

Answer: The first American spacewalk took place on Gemini 4.

5. Which mission became the first crewed flight to orbit the Moon?

Answer: Apollo 8 was the first crewed mission to orbit the Moon.

6. Before the first Moon landing, NASA held a 'full dress rehearsal' with which mission?

Answer: Apollo 10 was the full dress rehearsal for the first Moon landing.

7. Who was the third person to walk on the Moon?

Answer: Pete Conrad was the third person to walk on the Moon.

8. During Apollo 11, which astronaut stayed in lunar orbit while the other two landed?

Answer: Michael Collins stayed in lunar orbit while the other two Apollo 11 astronauts landed.

9. Which Apollo mission first flew the Lunar Roving Vehicle?

Answer: The Lunar Roving Vehicle first flew on Apollo 15.

10. In 1975, Soyuz and Apollo docked in orbit during what project?

Answer: They docked during the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project.

11. Mission Control for NASA human spaceflight is most closely associated with which city?

Answer: Mission Control became closely associated with Houston, Texas.

12. Johnson Space Center is located in what city?

Answer: Johnson Space Center is located in Houston, Texas.

EASY SPACE RACE TRIVIA

1. What was the name of the first artificial satellite to orbit Earth in 1957?

Answer: Sputnik 1

2. Who became the first human in space aboard Vostok 1 in 1961?

Answer: Yuri Gagarin

3. Which astronaut was the first American in space in 1961?

Answer: Alan Shepard

4. Who was the first American to orbit Earth, achieving that milestone in 1962?

Answer: John Glenn

5. Which cosmonaut became the first woman in space in 1963?

Answer: Valentina Tereshkova

6. Which mission made the first crewed Moon landing in 1969?

Answer: Apollo 11

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

Answer: Neil Armstrong

8. Who became the second person to walk on the Moon?

Answer: Buzz Aldrin

9. Which country launched Sputnik 1?

Answer: The Soviet Union

10. What space agency was created in 1958?

Answer: NASA

11. Apollo 11 launched from which space center in Florida?

Answer: Kennedy Space Center

12. In what year did the first Space Shuttle mission fly?

Answer: 1981

13. What was the name of the first dog sent into orbit around Earth?

Answer: Laika

Source: <https://triviagong.com/trivia/space-race-trivia-trivia>