

## Space Telescopes Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts Printable Trivia Pack

Space Telescopes trivia highlights the orbiting observatories that transformed astronomy by capturing light beyond the limits of Earth's atmosphere. From famous missions like Hubble and James Webb to the science behind infrared, ultraviolet, and X-ray views of space, this topic mixes accessible facts with surprising details for readers of all ages.

### HARD SPACE TELESCOPES TRIVIA

1. Who became the first director of the Space Telescope Science Institute?

Answer: Riccardo Giacconi

2. Which NASA center manages several major space observatory missions?

Answer: Goddard Space Flight Center

3. The Chandra X-ray Observatory reached deployment aboard which Space Shuttle?

Answer: Space Shuttle Columbia

4. What was the designation of Hubble's final shuttle servicing mission in 2009?

Answer: STS-125

5. Which exoplanet became the first one discovered by TESS?

Answer: Pi Mensae c

6. What size is the principal telescope mirror on the Roman mission, the one donated to NASA?

Answer: 2.4-meter mirror

7. Which three instruments flew on COBE?

Answer: DIRBE, FIRAS, and DMR

8. Planck was operated from which ESA framework?

Answer: Science Programme

9. Which JAXA-led X-ray observatory launched in 2023?

Answer: XRISM

10. What was the name of the X-ray observatory that launched in 2016?

Answer: Hitomi

11. How large was Herschel's primary mirror?

Answer: 3.5-meter primary mirror

12. Near which orbital region does Euclid observe?

Answer: Near the Sun-Earth L2 region

13. Which senior leader is named in connection with the Space Telescope Science Institute?

Answer: Ken Sembach

14. Playful but precise: if you wanted to mail a thank-you card to STScl, which city should go on the envelope?

Answer: Baltimore, Maryland

#### FUNNY SPACE TELESCOPES TRIVIA

1. If someone says, "Hubble" like it's a celebrity with one name, what is its full official name?

Answer: Hubble Space Telescope

2. JWST didn't just wake up and start working; after launch, what giant multi-part item did it unfold?

Answer: a five-layer sunshield

3. Where does JWST hang out so it can do science without Earth constantly photobombing?

Answer: near the Sun-Earth L2 point

4. Hubble is not roaming the galaxy like a backpacker. What orbit does it actually circle Earth in?

Answer: low Earth orbit

5. Before the Fermi mission got its current name, what was its original planned name?

Answer: GLAST

6. The Fermi mission was renamed to honor which physicist?

Answer: Enrico Fermi

7. Swift lives up to the name: after detection, it can rapidly turn to observe what kind of cosmic drama?

Answer: a gamma-ray burst

8. Which mission earned bragging rights as the first focusing hard X-ray telescope in orbit?

Answer: NuSTAR

9. IXPE has a very specific talent. What property of cosmic X-rays does it measure?

Answer: their polarization

10. True or false: The Neil Gehrels Swift Observatory got that longer name in 2018.?

Answer: True

11. Herschel wasn't named after a snack brand. Which astronomer gave the mission its name?

Answer: William Herschel

12. Canada's first space telescope had a compact name. What was it?

Answer: MOST

13. Which French-led mission studied both stars and exoplanets, basically refusing to pick just one hobby?

Answer: COROT

## FUN SPACE TELESCOPES TRIVIA

1. If Hubble ordered a giant circular pizza the same width as its primary mirror, how wide would that pizza be?

Answer: 2.4 meters across.

2. How many hexagonal segments team up to make JWST's primary mirror?

Answer: 18 hexagonal segments.

3. When fully assembled, about how wide is JWST's primary mirror?

Answer: About 6.5 meters wide.

4. What year did the first servicing mission to Hubble finally head up to give the famous telescope an orbital tune-up?

Answer: 1993.

5. Which astronaut became especially associated with multiple Hubble servicing missions?

Answer: John Grunsfeld.

6. Who runs Hubble's science operations from the ground, even though the telescope itself is far overhead?

Answer: The Space Telescope Science Institute.

7. What device came to Hubble's rescue in 1993 to correct its flawed early mirror?

Answer: COSTAR.

8. True or false: TESS spends years staring at one single field instead of chopping the sky into separate viewing regions.?

Answer: False

9. Instead of parking its gaze on one patch for ages, TESS breaks the sky into what?

Answer: Sectors.

10. Kepler's original staring contest with the cosmos focused on stars in which two constellations?

Answer: Cygnus and Lyra.

11. After a hardware problem changed the plan, what was Kepler's extended mission called?

Answer: K2.

12. What year did Gaia launch to begin its ambitious mapping work?

Answer: 2013.

13. Name the key scientist associated with the Gaia astrometry mission.?

Answer: Lennart Lindegren.

## SPACE TELESCOPES FAMILY TRIVIA

1. Hubble takes its name from which astronomer?

Answer: Edwin Hubble

2. In what year did the James Webb Space Telescope launch?

Answer: 2021

3. What rocket carried the James Webb Space Telescope into space?

Answer: Ariane 5

4. From which launch site did JWST lift off?

Answer: Guiana Space Centre in French Guiana

5. SOHO orbits near which special spot between Earth and the Sun?

Answer: The Sun-Earth L1 point

6. Which telescope's main mission was to find exoplanets using the transit method?

Answer: Kepler

7. Who is widely known as the driving force behind the Kepler mission?

Answer: William Borucki

8. The Chandra X-ray Observatory began its journey in which year?

Answer: 1999

9. Chandra is named after which astrophysicist?

Answer: Subrahmanyan Chandrasekhar

10. COBE launched in what year?

Answer: 1989

11. Which scientist shared the 2006 Nobel Prize for work linked to COBE results?

Answer: John Mather

12. Fermi blasted off in which year?

Answer: 2008

#### EASY SPACE TELESCOPES TRIVIA

1. In what year was the Hubble Space Telescope launched?

Answer: 1990

2. What is the common short form of the James Webb Space Telescope?

Answer: JWST

3. What does COBE stand for?

Answer: Cosmic Background Explorer

4. Which space telescope searches for exoplanets around nearby bright stars?

Answer: TESS

5. Which mission mapped the sky in infrared light?

Answer: WISE

6. Which space observatory measures stellar positions?

Answer: Gaia

7. Which spacecraft continuously observes the Sun from space?

Answer: SOHO

8. The Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope studies what kind of radiation?

Answer: Gamma rays

9. Which agency operates the Hubble Space Telescope with ESA as a partner?

Answer: NASA

10. Before it was called the Roman Space Telescope, what was it known as?

Answer: WFIRST

11. What was Spitzer originally called?

Answer: Space Infrared Telescope Facility

12. Which mission measured the cosmic microwave background with high precision?

Answer: Planck

13. Which telescope focused on ultraviolet observations from space?

Answer: GALEX

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