

# American History: Celestial Connections

American History · Practice Test · 12 Questions

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**1. Which U.S. President, known for his interest in science and astronomy, signed into law the bill that established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)?**

- A) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B) John F. Kennedy
- C) Lyndon B. Johnson
- D) Richard Nixon

**2. The first American to orbit the Earth was John Glenn. In what year did this historic flight occur aboard the Friendship 7 mission?**

- A) 1959
- B) 1961
- C) 1962
- D) 1963

**3. Before the establishment of NASA, the precursor agency responsible for early U.S. space efforts was part of which branch of the military?**

- A) United States Navy
- B) United States Army
- C) United States Air Force
- D) United States Marine Corps

**4. What celestial body was the primary target of the Apollo 11 mission, marking the first human landing on another world?**

- A) Mars
- B) The Moon
- C) Venus
- D) Jupiter

**5. The Hubble Space Telescope, a joint project involving NASA and the European Space Agency, was launched into low Earth orbit in which decade?**

- A) 1970s
- B) 1980s
- C) 1990s
- D) 2000s

**6. Which American President famously challenged the nation to land a man on the Moon and return him safely to Earth before the end of the 1960s?**

- A) Dwight D. Eisenhower
- B) John F. Kennedy
- C) Lyndon B. Johnson
- D) Richard Nixon

**7. The Voyager 1 spacecraft, launched by NASA in 1977, is the first human-made object to enter interstellar space. What is its current approximate distance from the Sun, in astronomical units (AU)?**

- A) 25 AU
- B) 50 AU
- C) 100 AU
- D) 200 AU

**8. The Mariner 10 mission, the first to visit Mercury, was a program of which American space agency?**

- A) NASA
- B) ARPA
- C) Bell Labs
- D) Lockheed Martin

**9. In the context of American space history, what does the acronym 'Sputnik' refer to, which spurred significant American efforts in space?**

- A) A type of rocket engine
- B) The first artificial Earth satellite
- C) A planetary landing probe
- D) A lunar module design

**10. The 'Great Comet of 1811', visible to the naked eye for many months, was observed and documented by American scientists, including those associated with which early scientific institution?**

- A) The Smithsonian Institution
- B) The American Philosophical Society
- C) The National Academy of Sciences
- D) The Lowell Observatory

**11. Which American planetarium, opened in 1935, was the first of its kind in the United States and played a significant role in public astronomy education?**

- A) Griffith Observatory, Los Angeles
- B) Adler Planetarium, Chicago
- C) Hayden Planetarium, New York City
- D) Morehead Planetarium, Chapel Hill

**12. The 'Scout' program represented a series of early, low-cost American sounding rockets and small launch vehicles. What was one of the primary scientific objectives of early Scout missions?**

- A) Testing atmospheric re-entry
- B) Launching artificial satellites
- C) Studying solar flares
- D) Mapping the surface of Mars