

Celestial Frontiers in Military History

Military History And Space Exploration · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which country launched the world's first artificial satellite, Sputnik 1, in 1957?

- A) United States
- B) Soviet Union**
- C) China
- D) France

2. What was the primary military objective of the United States' 'Star Wars' initiative, officially known as the Strategic Defense Initiative?

- A) Missile defense system**
- B) Interplanetary travel
- C) Deep sea mining
- D) Weather modification

3. Which US president set the national goal of landing a man on the moon by the end of the 1960s?

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

4. What is the name of the international military alliance that includes a Space Command to address security in orbit?

- A) NATO**
- B) ASEAN
- C) OPEC
- D) EU

5. The X-15, which reached space altitudes in the 1960s, was primarily categorized as what type of aircraft?

- A) Rocket-powered plane**
- B) Stealth bomber
- C) Helicopter
- D) Cargo transport

6. Which planet is often referenced in military science fiction but is known in reality for its extreme surface pressure?

- A) Mars
- B) Venus**
- C) Jupiter
- D) Saturn

7. What was the first animal to orbit the Earth, launched by the Soviet Union in 1957?

- A) A dog named Laika**
- B) A monkey named Albert
- C) A cat named Felix
- D) A mouse named Ham

8. Which space flight mission resulted in the first humans walking on the Moon?

- A) Apollo 11**
- B) Gemini 8
- C) Mercury-Redstone 3
- D) Skylab

9. What is the term for a military satellite that remains in the same position relative to the Earth's surface?

- A) Geostationary**
- B) Polar
- C) Elliptical
- D) Transitional

10. The V-2 rocket, developed during World War II, is considered the first man-made object to reach what?

- A) The stratosphere
- B) Suborbital space**
- C) The Moon
- D) Mars

11. Which U.S. government agency manages both military and civilian space exploration programs?

- A) NASA**
- B) FBI
- C) CIA
- D) NSA

12. What do military satellites most commonly use to observe the Earth's surface for intelligence?

A) Visible light and radar imagery

- B) Sound waves
- C) Magnetic resonance
- D) Radio interference

13. Which celestial body is the primary destination for current international military-funded exploration interest regarding resource extraction?

A) Mars

B) The Moon

- C) Venus
- D) Mercury

14. The 'Space Race' was a 20th-century competition primarily between which two global powers?

A) USA and USSR

- B) UK and Germany
- C) China and Japan
- D) Canada and Mexico

15. What is the primary purpose of the Global Positioning System (GPS), which was originally developed for military use?

A) Navigation and timing

- B) Weather forecasting
- C) Crop irrigation
- D) Deep space communication

16. The ISS (International Space Station) is a collaborative project that includes contributions from military-affiliated space agencies from which countries?

A) USA, Russia, Europe, Japan, Canada

- B) Australia, Brazil, India
- C) Egypt, Turkey, Iran
- D) Mexico, Argentina, Chile

17. Which layer of the atmosphere is often considered the boundary where space begins, known as the Kármán line?

A) 100 kilometers

- B) 50 kilometers
- C) 200 kilometers
- D) 10 kilometers

18. What type of engine is typically used to launch military satellites into orbit?

A) Chemical rocket

B) Nuclear-thermal

C) Ion thruster

D) Solar sail