

US Space Dominance: Artemis Lunar Missions, Starship's Future, and Private

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which U.S. state is the primary location for SpaceX's Starship development and launch operations?

- A) Florida
- B) Texas**
- C) California
- D) New Mexico

2. As part of the Artemis program, which company's Starship vehicle is being developed as a lunar lander for transferring astronauts to and from the Moon's surface?

- A) Blue Origin
- B) Boeing
- C) SpaceX**
- D) Northrop Grumman

3. NASA's Artemis program aims to establish a sustained lunar presence. Which mission is intended to be the first crewed lunar landing?

- A) Artemis II
- B) Artemis III**
- C) Artemis IV
- D) Artemis V

4. Which of these private U.S. companies is developing the 'New Glenn' heavy-lift orbital rocket and the 'Blue Moon' lunar lander?

- A) SpaceX
- B) Virgin Galactic
- C) Rocket Lab
- D) Blue Origin**

5. The Eric and Wendy Schmidt Observatory System initiative includes the development of a space telescope named Lazuli. What is a notable characteristic of this planned observatory?

- A) It will be the largest privately funded space telescope, exceeding Hubble's size.**
- B) It will focus exclusively on radio astronomy.
- C) It will be launched into orbit around Mars.
- D) It will be the first telescope funded by NASA.

6. The U.S. space exploration and satellites market is projected to grow significantly. Which region held the largest market share in 2024 due to a high concentration of aerospace manufacturers?

- A) Northeast
- B) West Coast
- C) Midwest
- D) South**

7. NASA's Artemis program aims to return humans to the Moon and eventually venture to Mars. The Artemis II mission was a crewed flight that:

- A) Landed astronauts on the lunar surface.
- B) Circled the Moon without landing.**
- C) Deployed a new lunar habitat.
- D) Conducted the first spacewalk on the Moon.

8. Which U.S. commercial space company is developing the 'Dream Chaser' spaceplane for resupplying the ISS and is co-developing the 'Orbital Reef' commercial space station?

- A) Axiom Space
- B) Sierra Space**
- C) Vast
- D) Intuitive Machines

9. The Artemis III mission, a critical step for future lunar landings, was updated to include an additional preparatory flight in 2027. What is the primary objective of this 2027 flight?

- A) To establish a permanent lunar base.
- B) To test rendezvous and docking with commercial moon landers in low-Earth orbit.**
- C) To deploy the first lunar telescope.
- D) To send the first uncrewed mission to Mars.

10. As of May 2026, SpaceX's Starship has undergone several test flights. What is a key design goal of the Starship program?

- A) To be a single-use, expendable rocket.
- B) To achieve the highest payload capacity of any launch vehicle to date.**
- C) To operate exclusively in suborbital space.
- D) To be powered solely by chemical rockets.