

East Asian Scientific Frontiers: May 2026 AI Hubs, Lunar Probes, and Ancient

Science & Tech · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. What specific protein is targeted by the experimental drug in Japan's newly announced human trial for tooth regeneration treatment to stimulate dormant tooth buds?

- A) AMELX
- B) USAG-1**
- C) BMP4
- D) FGF10

2. Which international organization's Director General recently joined the Republic of Korea in Seoul to reaffirm commitment to the vision for a new Global AI Hub, focusing on addressing global challenges?

- A) World Health Organization (WHO)
- B) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
- C) International Organization for Migration (IOM)**
- D) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

3. The SMILE mission, a collaborative space endeavor launched in May 2026 between the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), aims to achieve the first-ever panoramic imaging of the complex interplay between which two phenomena?

- A) Dark Matter and Dark Energy
- B) Exoplanet Atmospheres and Stellar Flares
- C) Solar Wind and Earth's Magnetosphere**
- D) Cosmic Rays and Interstellar Medium

4. Recent genetic analysis by RIKEN's Center for Integrative Medical Sciences in Japan challenges the long-accepted 'dual origins' theory of Japanese ancestry by providing evidence for a previously overlooked third ancestral group linked to which ancient people?

- A) Yayoi people
- B) Jomon hunter-gatherers
- C) Ainu people
- D) Emishi people**

5. At the Lingjing archaeological site in central China, new analysis of crystals in a prehistoric bone suggests that complex stone tools were crafted during which specific geological period, challenging previous assumptions about the emergence of human creativity?

- A) Holocene Epoch
- B) Late Middle Pleistocene ice age**
- C) Early Pliocene Warm Period
- D) Mid-Miocene Climatic Optimum

6. China's Chang'e-7 lunar exploration mission, scheduled for launch in the second half of 2026, has a primary objective to conduct environmental and resource surveys of which specific lunar region?

- A) Lunar Farside Maria
- B) Oceanus Procellarum
- C) Lunar South Pole**
- D) Mare Tranquillitatis

7. Major South Korean technology companies, including Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, are accelerating efforts to build 'autonomous fabs' by 2030, which are factories characterized by advanced AI integration in what aspect of their operations?

- A) Humanoid robotics for manual labor
- B) AI-powered marketing and sales forecasting
- C) AI deployment to boost production efficiency and seize leadership in memory supply**
- D) AI for executive decision-making and corporate strategy

8. The Shenzhou-23 crewed spaceflight mission, set to launch on May 24, 2026, marks a historic milestone for China's space program with the inclusion of the first astronaut from which Chinese Special Administrative Region?

- A) Macau
- B) Tibet
- C) Xinjiang
- D) Hong Kong**