

# Philippine Science This Week: Space Debris, Ancient Mariners, and New Spec

Science · Answer Key · 12 Questions

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**1. What event did the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) issue an advisory about concerning potential debris falling within the country's exclusive economic zone in late May 2026?**

- A) The launch of China's Long March 7A rocket**
- B) A meteor sighting over Mayon Volcano
- C) A 'space jellyfish' phenomenon
- D) The re-entry of a defunct satellite

**2. Recent archaeological findings suggest that ancient Filipinos were actively engaged in what activity thousands of years ago, challenging the notion of isolated islands?**

- A) Building vast island networks through sea travel**
- B) Developing advanced agricultural techniques
- C) Establishing trade routes with distant continents
- D) Migrating to mainland Asia

**3. A study on sea cucumber biodiversity in the Philippines, which won the 2026 NAST Environmental Science Award, was conducted by a researcher from which institution?**

- A) University of the Philippines-Diliman**
- B) Ateneo de Manila University
- C) De La Salle University
- D) University of Santo Tomas

**4. In May 2026, the Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) confirmed that a bright light captured over Mayon Volcano was caused by what celestial phenomenon?**

- A) A meteor entering the atmosphere**
- B) A rare aurora borealis display
- C) A satellite re-entry
- D) An unusual atmospheric ice crystal formation

**5. What is the common name given to the phenomenon observed on May 12, 2026, caused by a rocket's exhaust plume illuminated by sunlight at high altitudes?**

- A) Space jellyfish**
- B) Celestial ribbon
- C) Atmospheric aurora
- D) Rocket's tail

**6. The National Museum of Natural History recently described six new species of ants and recorded one new species in the Philippines. In which genus do these newly described ants belong?**

**A) Vombisidris**

- B) Formica
- C) Camponotus
- D) Solenopsis

**7. Which institution launched a new webpage in May 2026 highlighting marine biodiversity and scientific research in Pag-asa Island and the West Philippine Sea?**

**A) University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute (UP MSI)**

- B) Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS)
- C) Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)
- D) National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI)

**8. Archaeological evidence from Mindoro suggests that ancient Filipinos used shell tools and fished in deep waters, indicating skill in what area?**

**A) Maritime navigation and resource utilization**

- B) Subsistence farming techniques
- C) Stone tool construction
- D) Early metallurgy

**9. A new species of flowering plant, *Begonia occidentalis*, was described in March 2026. In which region of the Philippines was it discovered?**

**A) Western Mindanao**

- B) Northern Luzon
- C) Bicol Region
- D) Central Visayas

**10. The Philippine Space Agency (PhilSA) advisory regarding the Long March 7A rocket launch in May 2026 highlighted potential debris drop zones in areas approximately how far from Burgos, Ilocos Norte?**

**A) 41 nautical miles**

- B) 10 nautical miles
- C) 75 nautical miles
- D) 100 nautical miles

**11. What is the provisional conservation status assigned to the newly discovered plant species, *Begonia occidentalis*?**

**A) Critically Endangered**

B) Endangered

C) Vulnerable

D) Near Threatened

**12. A Filipino students' experiment, designed by students from Rizal Technological University (RTU), was successfully conducted onboard the International Space Station (ISS) as part of which program?**

**A) 2025 Asian Try Zero-G (ATZG 2025)**

B) 2026 Philippine Space Challenge

C) NASA's Student Launch Initiative

D) ESA's Young Scientists Program