

Australia's Lunar Leap: Roo-ver Rover, Asteroid Defense, and Rocketry Break

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. What is the name of the Australian-designed lunar rover that will travel to the Moon as part of NASA's Artemis program?

- A) Wallaby-bot
- B) Kangaroo-rover
- C) Roo-ver**
- D) Dingo-explorer

2. Which Australian company successfully conducted the first launch of an Australian-made orbital rocket, the Eris Test Flight 1, from Australian soil in July 2025?

- A) Fleet Space Technologies
- B) Gilmour Space Technologies**
- C) AtSpace
- D) Southern Launch

3. Australia plays a role in tracking near-Earth objects as part of NASA's International Asteroid Warning Network. What is the name of a recently detected asteroid, approximately the size of a jumbo jet, that was identified as having a small but notable chance of impacting Earth in 2032?

- A) 2023 YF4
- B) 2024 YR4**
- C) 2025 ZD5
- D) 2023 AB1

4. In what year is the Australian-made 'Roo-ver' lunar rover scheduled to land on the Moon's South Pole region as part of NASA's Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) initiative?

- A) 2028
- B) 2030**
- C) 2032
- D) 2029

5. Which Australian university is involved in demonstrating advanced laser (optical) communications for NASA's Artemis II mission?

- A) University of Melbourne
- B) Curtin University
- C) The Australian National University (ANU)**
- D) University of Sydney

6. What significant milestone did Katherine Bennell-Pegg achieve in 2024 in relation to Australian astronaut training?

- A) She completed her first spacewalk
- B) She became the first Australian to command the ISS
- C) She became the first person to complete astronaut training under the Australian flag**
- D) She was selected for a Mars mission

7. Which Australian company launched its new global headquarters and SpaceTech Hyperfactory in Adelaide in September 2025, enabling the production of advanced geophysical sensors and satellites?

- A) Gilmour Space Technologies
- B) Fleet Space Technologies**
- C) Southern Launch
- D) AtSpace

8. Australia has formalized a partnership with which Japanese space agency for its Martian Moon eXploration (MMX) mission, aiming to land samples from the Martian moon Phobos in South Australia by approximately 2031?

- A) JAXA**
- B) JAXA
- C) KARI
- D) ISRO

9. The Australian Space Agency-funded nanosatellite, SpIRIT, launched in December 2023, carries a payload from which space agency as its main scientific instrument?

- A) NASA
- B) ESA
- C) Italian Space Agency**
- D) UK Space Agency

10. In 2024, the Technology Safeguards Agreement between Australia and which country entered into force, aiming to protect US space technology and enable US space launch activities in Australia?

- A) United Kingdom
- B) Canada
- C) Japan
- D) United States**

11. Which Australian company is developing the Optimus spacecraft, which is set to be launched in 2026 aboard India's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) and will be the largest Australian-designed and built spacecraft to date?

- A) Gilmour Space Technologies
- B) Fleet Space Technologies
- C) Space Machines Company**
- D) AtSpace

12. What is the name of the European Space Agency's newest deep space antenna located in Western Australia, which entered nominal operations and is co-funded by the Australian Space Agency?

- A) New Norcia 3**
- B) Canberra Deep Space Communication Complex
- C) Tidbinbilla Tracking Station
- D) Dongara Deep Space Antenna