

July 2026: Unveiling Latin American & Caribbean Scientific Breakthroughs and Discoveries

Science · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. During July 2026, which significant astronomical event involving multiple planets is predicted to be visible in the predawn sky of the Caribbean region?

- A) A six-planet alignment
- B) A conjunction of Mars and Uranus**
- C) A rare alignment of Jupiter and Saturn
- D) The peak of the Perseids meteor shower

2. Archaeologists in which Latin American country recently documented a large cache of over 150 firearms and a cannon in a cenote, intentionally discarded during the 19th-century Caste War?

- A) Mexico**
- B) Peru
- C) Colombia
- D) Brazil

3. A recent scientific expedition in the Caribbean has uncovered new species and habitats. Which of the following was NOT among the discoveries mentioned?

- A) A dragonfish with a glowing lure
- B) A barreleye fish with upward-pointing eyes
- C) A previously unknown type of swimming sea cucumber
- D) A species of giant squid with bioluminescent tentacles**

4. In July 2026, the Southern Delta Aquariids meteor shower is expected to peak. This event is caused by debris left behind by which comets?

- A) Comets Marsden and Kracht**
- B) Comet Halley
- C) Comet Hale-Bopp
- D) Comets Hyakutake and Shoemaker-Levy 9

5. A major archaeological find in Oaxaca, Mexico, dating to around 600 CE, was highlighted in early 2026. What type of structure was this significant discovery?

- A) A Zapotec tomb**
- B) A Mayan pyramid
- C) An Aztec marketplace
- D) A pre-Columbian fortress

6. Researchers studying the Great Atlantic Sargassum Belt, which impacts the Caribbean, have suggested that this phenomenon could be utilized for climate solutions. What are the proposed applications?

A) Marine carbon dioxide removal and biofuel production

- B) Geoengineering to combat ocean acidification
- C) Developing new plastic-eating bacteria
- D) Creating artificial coral reefs

7. A recent scientific expedition off the coast of Brazil in the tropical South Atlantic Ocean discovered over 30 new marine species. Which of these newly identified organisms was NOT mentioned in the expedition's findings?

- A) An amphipod
- B) A comb jelly

C) A new species of deep-sea whale

- D) Several types of jellyfish

8. In July 2026, a notable celestial event will feature Venus and Jupiter. What is the primary characteristic of their appearance in the evening sky during this period?

A) They will be visible together shortly after sunset, though Jupiter will quickly drop out of view.

- B) Venus will be at its brightest as it reaches its greatest eastern elongation.
- C) Jupiter will be at opposition, making it visible all night.
- D) Mars and Uranus will be in close conjunction.

9. Archaeological excavations in Tula, Mexico, have uncovered ancient burials. Approximately how many ceramic vessels were found accompanying the burials in one of the tombs?

A) 47

- B) 150
- C) 80
- D) 3,300

10. Scientific research in the Caribbean is exploring deep and offshore ecosystems. What is a significant challenge highlighted by this research, particularly concerning decision-making for marine conservation?

A) Lack of understanding of biodiversity and ecological processes

- B) Overabundance of easily accessible data
- C) Limited participation of international scientists
- D) Insufficient funding for deep-sea exploration

11. A significant archaeological find in Venezuela, estimated to be between 4,000 and 8,000 years old, was discovered in the Cedeño Municipality. What type of artifact was this?

A) A petroglyph

- B) A stone sculpture of a maize god
- C) A collection of 19th-century firearms
- D) A 1,500-year-old burial

12. During July 2026, the Moon will be visible near several celestial bodies. Which planet is the Moon expected to be near on July 7th?

A) Saturn

- B) Mars
- C) Neptune
- D) Venus

13. The American Ornithological Society announced its 2026 Latin American/Caribbean Conservation Research grantees. One project focuses on the endangered, flightless *Rollandia microptera*. What is the common name for this bird?

A) Titicaca Grebe

- B) Andean Condor
- C) Blue-footed Booby
- D) Resplendent Quetzal

14. In July 2026, astronomers will observe a conjunction between Venus and which other bright planet, making them appear close together in the evening sky?

A) Jupiter

- B) Mars
- C) Saturn
- D) Uranus

15. A recent discovery in the Amazon rainforest, specifically along the BR-156 highway in Brazil, has provided clues about Indigenous inhabitants. What types of artifacts were found?

A) Pottery vases and artifacts resembling human faces

- B) Gold figurines and jade carvings
- C) Stone tools and cave paintings
- D) Woven textiles and bone fragments

16. Scientists are exploring the potential of Sargassum seaweed, which causes massive arrivals in the Caribbean. Besides biofuels, what other climate solution does the research suggest?

A) Deep-ocean carbon storage

- B) Atmospheric carbon capture via balloons
- C) Artificial seaweed farms for oxygen production
- D) Using seaweed to filter microplastics from the ocean

17. The AACR MONARCA Grant for Latin America supports early-career investigators in cancer research. What is the total award amount for this grant?

A) 55,000 USD

- B) 10,000 USD
- C) 100,000 USD
- D) 25,000 USD

18. In July 2026, the Southern Delta Aquariids meteor shower will peak. This is known as an average shower that can produce up to how many meteors per hour at its peak?

A) 20

- B) 10
- C) 50
- D) 100