

Space Exploration's Explosive Week: Artemis III Crew, SpaceX IPO Frenzy, and

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which four astronauts have been named as the prime crew for NASA's Artemis III mission, intended to test systems for future lunar landings?

- A) Randy Bresnik, Frank Rubio, Andre Douglas, and Luca Parmitano**
- B) Mark Vande Hei, Jessica Meir, Victor Glover, and Stephanie Wilson
- C) Christina Koch, Reid Wiseman, Victor Hays, and Nick Hague
- D) Joe Acaba, Kate Rubins, Scott Kelly, and Serena Auñón-Chancellor

2. What significant financial milestone did SpaceX achieve this week with its initial public offering (IPO)?

- A) Became the first space company to achieve a \$1 trillion valuation
- B) Raised a record-breaking \$75 billion, becoming the largest IPO ever**
- C) Launched its stock on the Nasdaq at \$100 per share
- D) Secured \$50 billion in funding from venture capitalists

3. China successfully launched eight satellites into orbit this week using which rocket model?

- A) Lijian-1 Y14
- B) Long March-12B Y1
- C) Kinetica-1 Y14**
- D) Soyuz-2

4. Blue Origin experienced an anomaly during a hotfire test on May 28, 2026, involving which rocket?

- A) New Glenn
- B) New Shepard
- C) Vulcan Centaur
- D) Saturn V**

5. The European Space Agency (ESA) Science Programme Committee met this week and endorsed extensions for how many current science missions?

- A) 13**
- B) 7
- C) 20
- D) 5

6. NASA's MAVEN mission, which studies Mars's atmosphere, was declared defunct this week after approximately how many years of operation?

- A) 11 years**
- B) 7 years
- C) 15 years
- D) 5 years

7. Which Chinese commercial rocket model recently achieved the milestone of delivering over 100 satellites into space?

- A) Kinetica-1**
- B) Lijian-1
- C) Long March-12B
- D) Ceres-2

8. SpaceX's stock experienced a significant jump in its first day of trading on the Nasdaq. What was the approximate percentage increase?

- A) 19%
- B) 5%**
- C) 25%
- D) 10%

9. The Artemis III mission is scheduled for launch in which year, with the crew performing tests in Earth orbit considered critical for Artemis IV?

- A) 2027**
- B) 2028
- C) 2026
- D) 2030

10. Which of the following ESA missions, recently adopted by the Science Programme Committee, is focused on galactic archaeology and capturing faint light from galaxy haloes?

- A) Arrakis**
- B) Hera
- C) Solar Orbiter
- D) BepiColombo