

2024 Global Headlines: Climate Records, Space Milestones, and Shifting Geopolitics

World News · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. In 2024, which scientific mission was launched by NASA with the primary purpose of studying Jupiter's moon Europa for signs of conditions suitable for life?

- A) PACE satellite
- B) Europa Clipper**
- C) PROBA-3
- D) Hera

2. According to the Copernicus Climate Change Service, what significant milestone regarding pre-industrial levels was reached for the first time in 2024?

- A) Global temperatures consistently exceeded 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels
- B) Global temperatures consistently exceeded 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels**
- C) Ocean temperatures consistently exceeded 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels
- D) Greenhouse gas levels consistently exceeded 2.0°C above pre-industrial levels

3. Which country achieved its first soft landing on the Moon in January 2024 with the SLIM spacecraft?

- A) China
- B) India
- C) Japan**
- D) South Korea

4. In 2024, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) reported that the last ten years have included which record number of the hottest years on record?

- A) The top five hottest years
- B) The top seven hottest years
- C) The top ten hottest years**
- D) The top twelve hottest years

5. Which major global conflict continued into its third year in 2024, with momentum shifting towards Russia along the front lines in eastern Ukraine?

- A) The Syrian Civil War
- B) The Russia-Ukraine War**
- C) The Sudanese Civil War
- D) The Israel-Gaza conflict

6. Which technology, focused on creating content that resembles human-generated work, was a significant trend in 2024, with applications ranging from text generation to image synthesis?

- A) Quantum Computing
- B) Extended Reality (XR)
- C) Generative AI**
- D) Blockchain

7. In September 2024, the United Nations held its second-ever High-Level Meeting on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). What was a key commitment made by Member States regarding AMR-related deaths by 2030?

- A) A 5% reduction
- B) A 10% reduction**
- C) A 25% reduction
- D) A 50% reduction

8. In 2024, what was a significant development in the geopolitical landscape of the Middle East, involving Israel and Hamas?

- A) A lasting peace treaty was signed between Israel and Hamas.
- B) The conflict expanded to include Hezbollah from Lebanon and Houthi fighters from Yemen.**
- C) Hamas fully surrendered to Israeli forces without further conflict.
- D) The United States brokered a permanent ceasefire, ending all hostilities.

9. NASA launched the Plankton, Aerosol, Cloud, & ocean Ecosystem (PACE) satellite on February 8, 2024. What is its primary purpose?

- A) To study distant galaxies and nebulae
- B) To monitor Earth's ocean and atmosphere for climate insights**
- C) To search for exoplanets
- D) To map the surface of Mars

10. The year 2024 saw a significant increase in orbital launch attempts. What percentage of these global launch attempts were attributed to private companies?

- A) 30%
- B) 50%
- C) 70%**
- D) 90%

11. According to a report by the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), what was the estimated number of people killed in conflicts globally in 2024?

- A) Approximately 76,000
- B) Approximately 129,000
- C) Approximately 179,000
- D) Approximately 233,000**

12. In 2024, the European Union passed the world's first comprehensive legal and regulatory framework for which emerging technology?

- A) Quantum Computing
- B) Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- C) Biotechnology
- D) 3D Printing