

Australian Science This Week: Space Debris, New Mammals, and Ocean Discoveries

Australian Science · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. What type of debris washed ashore on beaches in north Queensland recently, confirmed by the Australian Space Agency?

- A) Meteorites
- B) Lunar rocks
- C) Debris from a foreign rocket body**
- D) Samples from a weather balloon

2. Which Australian park is home to the newly discovered mammal species, *Planigale petrophila*?

- A) Kosciuszko National Park
- B) Kakadu National Park**
- C) Daintree Rainforest
- D) Blue Mountains National Park

3. What significant discovery was made in the deep waters off Australia's Great Barrier Reef recently, involving over 100 new species?

- A) A new type of coral
- B) Various deep-sea creatures like brittlestars, sharks, and crabs**
- C) An ancient underwater city
- D) A previously unknown type of whale

4. What unusual objects, identified as likely space debris, were found on the shores of Forrest Beach in Queensland?

- A) Shiny, spherical metallic objects**
- B) Large, flat metallic plates
- C) Tangled wires and circuits
- D) Fragmented satellite parts

5. Researchers from which university announced the discovery of the new mammal species, *Planigale petrophila*?

- A) University of Sydney
- B) University of Melbourne
- C) Queensland University of Technology**
- D) Australian National University

6. What is the scientific classification for the tiny marsupials, including the newly discovered *Planigale petrophila*?

- A) Dasyuridae**
- B) Vombatidae
- C) Ornithorhynchidae
- D) Macropodidae

7. The recent discovery of over 110 new species in the Coral Sea Marine Park highlights the importance of exploring what part of the ocean?

- A) The shallow intertidal zones
- B) The mesopelagic (twilight) zone
- C) The bathyal (midnight) zone
- D) The abyssal and hadal zones (deep sea)**

8. What did the Australian Space Agency identify the mysterious spheres found on Queensland beaches as?

- A) Fragments of a satellite
- B) Empty fuel vessels from a space launch vehicle**
- C) Debris from a meteor impact
- D) A new type of man-made buoy