

American Space Exploration History

American Space History · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which American spacecraft was the first to successfully complete a flyby of the planet Mercury in 1974?

- A) Mariner 10**
- B) Pioneer 10
- C) Voyager 1
- D) Messenger

2. In 1962, the Mariner 2 mission became the first human-made object to successfully perform a flyby of which planet?

- A) Mars
- B) Venus**
- C) Jupiter
- D) Saturn

3. What was the name of the first American satellite to achieve orbit around the Moon, launched in 1966 to survey potential landing sites?

- A) Lunar Orbiter 1**
- B) Surveyor 1
- C) Ranger 7
- D) Explorer 33

4. Which U.S. space probe, launched in 1977, was the first human-made object to cross the heliopause and enter interstellar space?

- A) Voyager 2
- B) Pioneer 11
- C) Voyager 1**
- D) New Horizons

5. The 'Viking 1' mission, which successfully landed on Mars in 1976, was launched by which NASA center?

- A) Johnson Space Center
- B) Kennedy Space Center**
- C) Jet Propulsion Laboratory
- D) Goddard Space Flight Center

6. Before the Apollo Moon landings, which American program was specifically designed to test rendezvous, docking, and long-duration flight capabilities?

A) Project Gemini

B) Project Mercury

C) Project Constellation

D) Project Skylab

7. In 1989, the Magellan spacecraft was launched to perform high-resolution radar mapping of the surface of which planet?

A) Mars

B) Mercury

C) Venus

D) Jupiter

8. Which American space telescope, launched in 2003, is known for its specialized focus on observing the universe in infrared wavelengths to see through cosmic dust?

A) Hubble Space Telescope

B) Chandra X-ray Observatory

C) Spitzer Space Telescope

D) Compton Gamma Ray Observatory