

Cosmic Chronology: Historical Milestones in Space

Space History · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which mission was the first to successfully land a human-made object on the surface of Venus in 1970?

- A) Venera 7**
- B) Mariner 5
- C) Luna 16
- D) Pioneer Venus 1

2. In 1965, who became the first human to perform an extravehicular activity (spacewalk)?

- A) Neil Armstrong
- B) Yuri Gagarin
- C) Alexei Leonov**
- D) John Glenn

3. Which astronomical body was officially reclassified from a planet to a dwarf planet by the IAU in 2006?

- A) Eris
- B) Ceres
- C) Makemake
- D) Pluto**

4. What was the primary scientific objective of the Apollo 17 mission, the final crewed mission to the Moon?

- A) Testing lunar rovers
- B) Geological mapping and lunar sample collection**
- C) Establishing a permanent base
- D) Searching for lunar water ice

5. The 'Great Debate' of 1920, involving Harlow Shapley and Heber Curtis, focused on determining what cosmic mystery?

- A) The composition of the Sun
- B) The scale and nature of galaxies**
- C) The existence of dark matter
- D) The origin of the Big Bang

6. Which space probe, launched in 1977, was the first human-made object to enter interstellar space in 2012?

- A) Voyager 2
- B) Pioneer 10
- C) Voyager 1**
- D) New Horizons

7. The 1971 Salyut 1 was significant in space history for being what?

- A) The first reusable shuttle
- B) The first space station**
- C) The first satellite in geosynchronous orbit
- D) The first probe to orbit Mars

8. Who was the first woman to fly in space, completing 48 orbits of the Earth in 1963?

- A) Sally Ride
- B) Valentina Tereshkova**
- C) Svetlana Savitskaya
- D) Judith Resnik