

Milestones in Space Exploration

Space Exploration · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which spacecraft was the first to successfully perform a soft landing on another planet, specifically Venus, in 1966?

- A) Venera 3
- B) Venera 4**
- C) Mariner 2
- D) Pioneer Venus 1

2. What is the name of the boundary line located at an altitude of 100 kilometers that commonly represents the beginning of outer space?

- A) The Van Allen Line
- B) The Armstrong Limit
- C) The Kármán Line**
- D) The Exobase

3. Which Apollo mission was the first to successfully orbit the Moon and return safely to Earth?

- A) Apollo 7
- B) Apollo 8**
- C) Apollo 9
- D) Apollo 10

4. The 'Great Red Spot' on Jupiter is a persistent high-pressure storm. Approximately how long has it been observed by astronomers?

- A) At least 150 years
- B) At least 350 years**
- C) At least 600 years
- D) At least 50 years

5. Who was the first person to conduct a spacewalk (Extravehicular Activity) on March 18, 1965?

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

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

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

7. What was the primary objective of the Viking 1 and Viking 2 missions launched by NASA in 1975?

- A) Map the moons of Jupiter
- B) Analyze the Martian surface for signs of life**
- C) Sample the atmosphere of Saturn
- D) Study the solar wind near the Sun

8. Which element is the most abundant in the Sun, comprising approximately 73% of its mass?

- A) Helium
- B) Oxygen
- C) Hydrogen**
- D) Carbon

9. What is the name of the largest moon in the Solar System, which orbits the planet Jupiter?

- A) Titan
- B) Europa
- C) Callisto
- D) Ganymede**

10. The 'Hubble Deep Field' image, one of the most significant images in astronomy, was created by pointing the telescope at a seemingly empty patch of sky for how long?

- A) 24 hours
- B) 10 days**
- C) 30 days
- D) 48 hours

11. Which space agency developed the 'Space Shuttle' program, which officially flew its first mission (STS-1) in 1981?

- A) ESA
- B) NASA**
- C) Roscosmos
- D) JAXA

12. What is the orbital period of the International Space Station (ISS) around the Earth?

A) Approximately 90 minutes

B) Approximately 24 hours

C) Approximately 12 hours

D) Approximately 6 hours