



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: ASTRONAUTS

1. Write a few sentences describing the main ideas of Chapter 4.
2. Would you like to be an astronaut? Why or why not?
3. In what year did the first astronaut orbit Earth?
 - A. 1961
 - B. 1963
 - C. 1969
4. Why might NASA ask private companies to make parts of spacecraft?
 - A. so that NASA can spend more money
 - B. so that NASA can focus on other parts of a mission
 - C. because NASA is not good at making spacecraft



5. What does **orbited** mean in the *Astronauts* book?

*He **orbited** Earth in 1961. He circled the planet in about 1.5 hours.*

- A. lived for a long time in space
- B. took a curved path around an object in space
- C. launched into space from Earth

6. What does **launched** mean in the *Astronauts* book?

*The Apollo 11 mission **launched** in 1969. Three astronauts circled the Moon.*

- A. landed
- B. lifted off
- C. crashed



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: ASTRONAUTS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: FUTURE SPACE MISSIONS

1. Write a few sentences that explain the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. Which future mission do you find most interesting? Why?
3. When did the *Lucy* probe launch?
 - A. 2017
 - B. 2018
 - C. 2021
4. Why did NASA do two Artemis missions before the mission to land on the Moon?
 - A. to make sure NASA was ready for the Moon landing
 - B. to land on another space object first
 - C. to go back to earlier Moon landings



5. What does **examine** mean in the *Future Space Missions* book?

*They would **examine** its surface. They'd take samples of ice.*

- A. study
- B. launch from
- C. land on

6. What does **environments** mean in the *Future Space Missions* book?

*NASA made Mars-like **environments** on Earth. Astronauts lived in them to prepare.*

- A. the spacecraft used for landing
- B. the features of certain areas
- C. the tools that take samples



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: FUTURE SPACE MISSIONS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. C
4. A
5. A
6. B



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: MOON LANDINGS

1. Write a few sentences that explain the main ideas of Chapter 3.
2. Which Moon mission do you find most interesting? Why?
3. In which mission did astronauts first orbit the Moon?
 - A. Apollo 8
 - B. Apollo 11
 - C. Apollo 13
4. Why have astronauts not stayed on the Moon for more than a few days?
 - A. Astronauts take years to reach the Moon.
 - B. It is hard for people to survive on the Moon.
 - C. People already fully understand the Moon.



5. What does **sections** mean in the *Moon Landings* book?

*The Apollo 11 spacecraft had three **sections**. One part went down to the Moon's surface. In another part, an astronaut stayed in orbit.*

- A. kinds of rockets
- B. different pieces or parts
- C. doors to the outside

6. What does **assemble** mean in the *Moon Landings* book?

*NASA planned to **assemble** a new space station. It would orbit the Moon.*

- A. build
- B. destroy
- C. move away



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: MOON LANDINGS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: PROBES

1. Write a few sentences that explain the main ideas of Chapter 2.
2. If you could send a probe into space, where would you send it? Why?
3. How long did it take *New Horizons* to reach Pluto?
 - A. less than a year
 - B. more than nine years
 - C. more than 20 years
4. Why might scientists use probes instead of spacecraft with people?
 - A. It is hard to take care of astronauts on long missions.
 - B. Astronauts cannot take photographs.
 - C. Probes do not need fuel.



5. What does **competition** mean in the *Probes* book?

*This **competition** was between the United States and the Soviet Union. They tried to explore parts of space first.*

- A. a type of country
- B. a spacecraft that can orbit objects
- C. an event where groups try to beat one another

6. What does **public** mean in the *Probes* book?

*Juno had a **public** camera. Regular people could help choose what Juno took pictures of.*

- A. able to be used by only scientists
- B. not able to be used
- C. able to be used by all people



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: PROBES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. C
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: ROCKETS

1. Write a paragraph that explains the main ideas of Chapter 3.
2. Which rocket would you most like to fly in? Why?
3. When did rockets first reach orbit?
 - A. the 1200s
 - B. the 1950s
 - C. the 2000s
4. Why might reusable rockets be helpful?
 - A. They take longer to build and are much more expensive.
 - B. Scientists do not have to build new rockets for every launch.
 - C. The materials used to construct them are safer.



5. What does **developing** mean in the *Rockets* book?

*Scientists kept **developing** new rockets. They became more powerful.*

- A. improving
- B. landing
- C. destroying

6. What does **descend** mean in the *Rockets* book?

*They **descend** back to Earth. The boosters land safely on the ground.*

- A. spin
- B. rise
- C. fall



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: ROCKETS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. B
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: ROVERS AND LANDERS

1. Write a few sentences that explain the main ideas of Chapter 3.

2. Which rover do you find most interesting? Why?

3. What was the first mission to land on Mars?

- A. *Viking 1*
- B. *Perseverance*
- C. *Philae*

4. How long did the *Opportunity* rover explore Mars?

- A. 6 years
- B. 14 years
- C. 40 years



5. What does **examined** mean in the *Rovers and Landers* book?

*The rovers **examined** the areas where they landed. Opportunity found minerals formed by water.*

- A. looked at closely
- B. drove away from
- C. dug large holes in

6. What does **retrieve** mean in the *Rovers and Landers* book?

*They hoped to **retrieve** samples from Perseverance. They planned to study the samples back on Earth.*

- A. get or bring something back
- B. destroy or throw away
- C. move underground



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: ROVERS AND LANDERS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. A
4. B
5. A
6. A



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: SPACE STATIONS

1. Write a paragraph about life on a space station.
2. Which space station would you most like to visit? Why?
3. What was the first modular space station?
 - A. the International Space Station
 - B. Mir
 - C. Gateway
4. What would happen if astronauts did not exercise on space stations?
 - A. Their bodies would be much weaker when they returned to Earth.
 - B. Their bodies would be much stronger when they returned to Earth.
 - C. They would get too bored on the space station.



5. What does **tethered** mean in the *Space Stations* book?

*During spacewalks, astronauts are **tethered** to the space station. One end of a cable attaches to the astronaut. The other attaches to the station.*

- A. connected
- B. away from
- C. still inside

6. What does **transport** mean in the *Space Stations* book?

*Spacecraft from Earth help, too. They carry supplies such as food and tools. They also **transport** astronauts.*

- A. to run out of supplies
- B. to fix something that is broken
- C. to bring from one place to another



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: SPACE STATIONS

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. A
5. A
6. C



COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

EXPLORING SPACE: TELESCOPES

1. Write a few sentences that explain the main ideas of Chapter 1.
2. Which telescope do you find most interesting? Why?
3. When was the first space telescope launched?
 - A. the 1600s
 - B. the 1960s
 - C. the 2020s
4. Why is a mountaintop a good place for a telescope?
 - A. There is no atmosphere there.
 - B. The atmosphere is thicker there, which bends more light.
 - C. The atmosphere is thinner there, which bends less light.



5. What does **detailed** mean in the *Telescopes* book?

*Soon, a **detailed** image reaches Earth. Scientists can see the nebula up close. The image shows huge clouds of dust.*

- A. something that shows many features
- B. something that is very blurry
- C. something that has no color

6. What does **data** mean in the *Telescopes* book?

*Pictures recorded what the telescopes saw. Computers helped sort the **data**.*

- A. computers that can work very quickly
- B. scientists who fix damaged telescopes
- C. information gathered to study something



ANSWER KEY FOR EXPLORING SPACE: TELESCOPES

1. Answers will vary
2. Answers will vary
3. B
4. C
5. A
6. C