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## Americans Land Spacecraft at Sea, Russians Opt for Land

### Description

On April 10, NASA's Orion spacecraft landed safely in the ocean near San Diego. It did not land on land, which would have made things easier. The ocean has big waves, and items can sink.

Retrieving the spacecraft from the ocean is costly. It needs Navy ships and helicopters for the astronauts. On land, a truck could take them back easily. Russia uses land for landing their spacecraft. However, NASA chose to land in the ocean because technical problems make landing on solid ground hard.

Spacecraft return to Earth at very high speeds. They need parachutes to slow down. But parachutes alone do not stop them completely. Before it landed, Orion was still going fast enough to cause injuries if it hit something solid.

Russia uses retrorockets, small engines, to slow their Soyuz spacecraft just before landing. This method is effective but can be heavy. It limits how many astronauts can go. American companies are now working to create new ways to land on solid ground safely. They want to make space travel better and cheaper.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **retrieving** //rɪ'tri:vɪŋ// (verb): getting something back from a place
2. **costly** //ˈkɔ:stli// (adjective): needing a lot of money or effort
3. **parachutes** //ˈpærə,ʃu:ts// (noun): large cloth devices that make falling slower
4. **retro-rockets** //ˈretroʊ,rəkɪts// (noun): small rocket engines that slow a spacecraft
5. **effective** //ɪˈfektɪv// (adjective): works well and gives the wanted result
6. **technical** //ˈtɛknɪkəl// (adjective): about machines, tools, or specific skills

## Comprehension Questions

### Multiple Choice

1. Where did NASA's Orion spacecraft land on April 10?

Option: In the ocean near San Diego

Option: On solid ground

Option: In a desert



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Option: In a foreign country

2. Why does NASA land their spacecraft in the ocean?

Option: It's easier to retrieve

Option: Technical problems make land landing hard

Option: It's cheaper

Option: They prefer water landings

3. What method does Russia use to slow their Soyuz spacecraft before landing?

Option: Parachutes

Option: Retrorockets

Option: Water landing

Option: Airbags

4. What is a disadvantage of using retrorockets for landing?

Option: They are ineffective

Option: They can be heavy, limiting astronaut capacity

Option: They are too expensive

Option: They can only be used on solid ground

5. What do American companies want to improve about space travel?

Option: Make it harder

Option: Make it better and cheaper

Option: Make it more dangerous

Option: Make it more complex

6. What risk is associated with high-speed spacecraft landings?

Option: They can explode

Option: They can cause injuries if hitting something solid

Option: They can sink

Option: They can get lost

### True-False

7. NASA's Orion spacecraft landed on solid ground on April 10.

8. Retrieving a spacecraft from the ocean is less costly than from land.



9. Russia uses retrorockets just before landing their spacecraft.
10. Parachutes alone are enough to stop spacecraft completely during landing.
11. American companies are working on safer solid ground landings for spacecraft.
12. Orion spacecraft returned to Earth at a slow speed.

### Gap-Fill

13. NASA's Orion spacecraft landed safely in the ocean near \_\_\_\_\_.
14. Retrieving the spacecraft from the ocean is \_\_\_\_\_.
15. NASA chose to land in the ocean because technical problems make landing on solid ground \_\_\_\_\_.
16. Russia uses retrorockets to slow their Soyuz spacecraft just before \_\_\_\_\_.
17. American companies want to make space travel better and \_\_\_\_\_.
18. Spacecraft return to Earth at very \_\_\_\_\_ speeds.

### Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. In the ocean near San Diego 2. Technical problems make land landing hard 3. Retrorockets 4. They can be heavy, limiting astronaut capacity 5. Make it better and cheaper 6. They can cause injuries if hitting something solid

**True-False:** 7. False 8. False 9. True 10. False 11. True 12. False

**Gap-Fill:** 13. San Diego 14. costly 15. hard 16. landing 17. cheaper 18. high

## Vocabulary quizzes

### Multiple Choice ( Select the Correct answer for each question. )

1. What is the primary vehicle used for traveling to space?

Option: Helicopter



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- Option: Space Shuttle  
Option: Car  
Option: Train
2. What device is commonly used to slow down the descent of a person or object from the sky?
- Option: Rocket  
Option: Parachute  
Option: Balloon  
Option: Glider
3. Which of the following is primarily used to launch spacecraft into orbit?
- Option: Paragliders  
Option: Rockets  
Option: Airplanes  
Option: Drones
4. What is the term for actions taken to save someone from a dangerous situation?
- Option: Evacuate  
Option: Rescue  
Option: Assist  
Option: Help
5. What term describes an object that is going down below the surface of a liquid?
- Option: Floating  
Option: Sinking  
Option: Drifting  
Option: Rising
6. What term refers to the possibility of suffering harm or loss?
- Option: Safety  
Option: Certainty  
Option: Risk  
Option: Reward
7. What is the process called when something is brought back or recovered?
- Option: Storing  
Option: Dispatching  
Option: Retrieving  
Option: Transmitting
8. What word describes something that is expensive or has a high price?
- Option: Cheap  
Option: Affordable



- Option: Costly
- Option: Inexpensive

9. What term is used to describe something that successfully produces a desired result?

- Option: Ineffective
- Option: Inefficient
- Option: Sluggish
- Option: Effective

10. Which term refers to specialized knowledge or skills, often related to technology?

- Option: General
- Option: Common
- Option: Technical
- Option: Simple

**Gap-Fill ( Fill in the blanks with the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

- 11. Parachutes are often used in skydiving and \_\_\_\_\_.
- 12. Rockets work on the principle of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 13. In case of a disaster, a rescue operation is often \_\_\_\_\_ to save lives.
- 14. The ship was in danger of \_\_\_\_\_ after hitting an iceberg.
- 15. Investing in stocks can carry a high level of \_\_\_\_\_.
- 16. The team was focused on \_\_\_\_\_ the lost equipment from the water.
- 17. The repairs for the aircraft turned out to be extremely \_\_\_\_\_.
- 18. The new vaccine has been proven \_\_\_\_\_ in preventing the disease.
- 19. Her \_\_\_\_\_ skills allowed her to troubleshoot the computer issues quickly.
- 20. Only a few species can \_\_\_\_\_ in extreme conditions.

**Matching Sentences ( Match each definition to the correct word from the vocabulary list. )**

21. Spacecraft are designed to travel in outer space to explore or transport payloads.



22. Parachutes slow the descent of a person or object using drag.
23. Rockets provide the thrust necessary to break free from the Earth's atmosphere.
24. Rescue missions are often undertaken to save individuals in perilous situations.
25. Sinking is the process by which an object descends into a liquid.
26. Every investment carries a certain degree of risk that investors must consider.
27. Retrieving lost items from difficult locations can often be challenging.
28. Implementing new safety measures may be costly but could save lives in the long run.
29. An effective marketing strategy can significantly boost a company's visibility.
30. Technical skills are essential in managing complex engineering projects.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. Space Shuttle 2. Parachute 3. Rockets 4. Rescue 5. Sinking 6. Risk 7. Retrieving 8. Costly 9. Effective 10. Technical

**Gap-Fill:** 11. military operations 12. Newton's third law of motion 13. launched 14. sinking 15. risk 16. retrieving 17. costly 18. effective 19. technical 20. survive

**Matching sentence:** 1. spacecraft 2. parachutes 3. rockets 4. rescue 5. sinking 6. risk 7. retrieving 8. costly 9. effective 10. technical

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