



Artemis II Celebrations Raise Questions on US Space Leadership

Description

The recent Artemis II mission successfully completed a crewed fly-by of the Moon, marking the first such journey in over 50 years. This achievement represents a significant milestone for NASA and the wider scientific community, demonstrating advanced engineering and teamwork.

The mission also saw historic firsts, with the first woman and the first person of colour orbiting the Moon. Astronaut Victor Glover highlighted the importance of representation in inspiring future generations. While this success deserves recognition, it also invites critical examination of the broader implications.

Artemis II is part of a larger US programme aiming to set up a permanent Moon base by 2030. This initiative extends beyond exploration, as it seeks to assert American dominance in space and stimulate a lunar economy. The US views its efforts as part of a competitive relationship with China.

A key area of interest is the Moon's south pole, where valuable resources like water ice and helium-3 could support human life and fuel future missions. The lack of comprehensive international treaties governing space resource extraction raises concerns about potential conflicts.

The US aims to shape space governance through the Artemis Accords, which outline principles for the responsible use of lunar resources. Currently, 61 countries have signed these accords, though some critics argue they favour US interests.

With tensions on Earth, particularly involving military actions and international relations, questions arise about how US policies may influence its conduct in space. As leadership in space continues to evolve, it will be crucial to ensure accountability and adherence to international norms.

Vocabulary List:

1. **milestone** //ˈmaɪl,stoʊn// (noun): an important event or stage in progress
2. **representation** //ˌrɛprɪzɛn'teɪʃən// (noun): showing different groups are seen and included
3. **implications** //ˌɪmplɪ'keɪʃənz// (noun): possible effects or results of an action
4. **initiative** //ɪ'nɪʃɪətɪv// (noun): a new plan or action to reach goals
5. **stimulate** //ˈstɪmjə,leɪt// (verb): to make something grow or become active
6. **extraction** //ɪk'strækʃən// (noun): taking something out from a place

Comprehension Questions



Multiple Choice

1. What significant milestone did the Artemis II mission achieve?
 - Option: First crewed landing on the Moon
 - Option: First crewed fly-by of the Moon in over 50 years
 - Option: First woman in space
 - Option: First lunar base established

2. What is one of the goals of the Artemis programme?
 - Option: To send astronauts to Mars
 - Option: To establish a permanent Moon base by 2030
 - Option: To develop new rocket technology
 - Option: To create a manned mission to Venus

3. Who highlighted the importance of representation during the Artemis II mission?
 - Option: Neil Armstrong
 - Option: Victor Glover
 - Option: Nasa Administrator
 - Option: Elon Musk

4. How many countries have signed the Artemis Accords as mentioned in the content?
 - Option: 50
 - Option: 61
 - Option: 75
 - Option: 100

5. What valuable resources are mentioned as being of interest at the Moon's south pole?
 - Option: Gold and platinum
 - Option: Water ice and helium-3
 - Option: Oxygen and nitrogen
 - Option: Carbon and magnesium

6. Critics argue that the Artemis Accords favour the interests of which country?
 - Option: China
 - Option: Russia
 - Option: India
 - Option: United States



True-False

7. The Artemis II mission was the first mission to orbit the Moon.
8. The Artemis programme aims to establish a permanent base on Mars.
9. Victor Glover is the first person of colour to orbit the Moon.
10. The Artemis Accords have been signed by 61 countries.
11. The US views its lunar efforts as part of a competitive relationship with Russia.
12. There are comprehensive international treaties governing space resource extraction.

Gap-Fill

13. The Artemis II mission marked the first crewed fly-by of the Moon in over _____ years.
14. The goal of the Artemis programme is to establish a permanent Moon base by _____.
15. Victor Glover emphasized the importance of _____ in inspiring future generations.
16. The US aims to shape space governance through the Artemis _____.
17. Valuable resources like water ice and _____ could support human life on the Moon.
18. Critics claim that the Artemis Accords favour US _____.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. First crewed fly-by of the Moon in over 50 years 2. To establish a permanent Moon base by 2030 3. Victor Glover 4. 61 5. Water ice and helium-3 6. United States

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 50 14. 2030 15. representation 16. Accords 17. helium-3 18. interests



Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is the primary focus of an entomologist's study?
Option: Mammals
Option: Birds
Option: Insects
Option: Plants
2. Which of the following best describes an ecosystem?
Option: A database of organisms
Option: A community of living organisms interacting with their environment
Option: A single species
Option: A fossil record
3. Fossils are primarily used to study which aspect of history?
Option: Recent events
Option: Climatic changes
Option: Ancient life forms
Option: Human history
4. What does pareidolia refer to?
Option: Feeling of nostalgia
Option: Seeing patterns or meanings in random stimuli
Option: A type of illness
Option: A method of scientific testing
5. Which field studies microbial organisms?
Option: Botany
Option: Zoology
Option: Microbiology
Option: Anthropology
6. Which characteristic is typically associated with predatory animals?
Option: Herbivorous diet
Option: Photosynthesis
Option: Hunting and feeding on other animals
Option: Living in colonies
7. What does the term milestone commonly refer to?



- Option: A building block for construction
- Option: A significant event or point in progress
- Option: A tool for measurement
- Option: An animal species

8. Which of the following is a synonym for representation?

- Option: Illustration
- Option: Confusion
- Option: Procrastination
- Option: Isolation

9. What is a common goal of a community initiative?

- Option: To exhaust resources
- Option: To suppress collaboration
- Option: To promote positive change
- Option: To isolate individuals

10. Which action is synonymous with stimulate?

- Option: Dampen
- Option: Encourage
- Option: Limit
- Option: Restrict

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

- 11. An _____ studies insects in various ecosystems.
- 12. A forest is an example of an _____ that is home to many species.
- 13. _____ are the preserved remains or impressions of ancient organisms.
- 14. People often experience _____ when they see a face in cloud formations.
- 15. The _____ world includes bacteria, fungi, and other microorganisms.
- 16. Lions are considered _____ animals in the food chain.
- 17. Graduation is an important _____ in a person's life.
- 18. The painting was a beautiful _____ of nature.



19. The community took an _____ to clean up the park.
20. The teacher hoped to _____ interest in science among her students.

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

21. Mining involves the extraction of valuable minerals from the earth.
22. The exhibition will showcase various artworks from local artists.
23. Species often evolve over time due to environmental changes.
24. Bacteria can develop resistances to antibiotics through mutations.
25. The lion is known for being a formidable predator in the wild.
26. Everyone is encouraged to participate in the community meetings.
27. The potential for renewable energy sources is vast and largely untapped.
28. The spacecraft's splashdown marked the successful conclusion of its mission.
29. The rocket's trajectory was carefully calculated to ensure a safe return.
30. The new car design features an aerodynamic shape to reduce drag.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Insects 2. A community of living organisms interacting with their environment 3. Ancient life forms 4. Seeing patterns or meanings in random stimuli 5. Microbiology 6. Hunting and feeding on other animals 7. A significant event or point in progress 8. Illustration 9. To promote positive change 10. Encourage
- Gap-Fill:** 11. entomologist 12. ecosystem 13. Fossils 14. pareidolia 15. microbial 16. predatory 17. milestone 18. representation 19. initiative 20. stimulate
- Matching sentence:** 1. extraction 2. showcase 3. evolve 4. resistances 5. formidable 6. participate 7. potential 8. splashdown 9. trajectory 10. aerodynamic

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4

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6. space
7. US leadership

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