



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** //ˌrɛprɪzən'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

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL4



POST TAG

1. Artemis II
2. B2
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
5. Level 4
6. space
7. US leadership

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