



Cosmonaut Urged to Evacuate After 'Blob' Found Outside ISS

Description

An astronaut on a spacewalk outside the International Space Station (ISS) found an unusual 'blob' in space and was told to leave quickly. The ISS, which has been in orbit for nearly 30 years, is the largest spacecraft ever built. It is run by five space agencies, including NASA and Russia's Roscosmos.

On their spacewalk, Russian cosmonauts Oleg Kononenko and Nikolai Chub noticed the blob. They immediately contacted ground control for advice. Control instructed them to exit the area quickly. The blob was not an alien substance, but a leak from a radiator that was spilling coolant.

The astronauts identified the leak and took steps to stop it from causing further issues. Although Kononenko planned to clean it up, he had to leave after some coolant got on his safety tether. They stored the tether safely and followed rules to ensure they were not contaminated before returning to the ISS.

Despite the worries about the blob and the coolant leak, both astronauts returned safely. The ISS, which has been continuously occupied for over 25 years, is expected to end its operations in 2030, with the remains being sent to a remote area of the ocean in January 2031.

Vocabulary List:

1. **spacewalk** //ˈspeɪs,wɔːk// (noun): a walk outside a spacecraft in space
2. **radiator** //ˈreɪdi,etər// (noun): a device that moves heat away from something
3. **coolant** //ˈkuːlənt// (noun): a liquid that keeps machines from getting hot
4. **leak** //li:k// (noun): an unwanted flow of liquid or gas out
5. **tether** //ˈtɛðər// (noun): a rope or cord used to hold something
6. **contaminated** //kənˈtæmə,neɪtɪd// (adjective): made dirty or unsafe by something harmful

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What did the astronauts find during their spacewalk outside the ISS?

Option: A new star

Option: An unusual 'blob'



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- Option: An alien spaceship
 - Option: A piece of space junk

2. Which space agencies run the ISS?

- Option: NASA, ESA, CNSA, ISRO, Roscosmos
- Option: NASA and Roscosmos
- Option: NASA and ESA
- Option: NASA and China

3. What was the blob actually identified as?

- Option: An alien substance
- Option: A leak from a radiator
- Option: Space debris
- Option: A malfunctioning satellite

4. How long has the ISS been in orbit?

- Option: 20 years
- Option: 25 years
- Option: 30 years
- Option: 35 years

5. When is the ISS expected to end its operations?

- Option: 2025
- Option: 2030
- Option: 2035
- Option: 2040

6. In which area will the remains of the ISS be sent?

- Option: The Arctic Ocean
- Option: A remote area of the ocean
- Option: The Pacific Ocean
- Option: A lake

True-False

7. The ISS is the largest spacecraft ever built.

8. Russian cosmonauts found the blob and quickly contacted ground control.



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9. The blob was found to be a harmless substance.
 10. Kononenko had to clean up the blob before leaving.
 11. Both astronauts returned safely to the ISS after the incident.
 12. The ISS will continue to operate indefinitely.

Gap-Fill

13. The ISS has been continuously occupied for over _____ years.
14. The astronauts took precautions to ensure they were not _____ before returning.
15. The blob was leaking _____ from a radiator.
16. The ISS is run by five space agencies, including NASA and Russia's _____ .
17. Control instructed the astronauts to exit the area _____ .
18. The remains of the ISS are expected to be sent to a remote area of the ocean in _____ 2031.

Answer

Multiple Choice: 1. An unusual 'blob' 2. NASA and Roscosmos 3. A leak from a radiator 4. 30 years 5. 2030
6. A remote area of the ocean

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

Gap-Fill: 13. 25 14. contaminated 15. coolant 16. Roscosmos 17. quickly 18. January

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL2

POST TAG

1. blob
2. cosmonaut
3. ESL learning
4. esl news
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6. Level 2

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