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## Space Station Regains Full Crew After Month

### Description

After the departure of several astronauts on January 15, only one NASA astronaut, Chris Williams, remained aboard the International Space Station (ISS). Williams, who launched in November on a Russian Soyuz spacecraft with two Russian cosmonauts, found himself responsible for much of the maintenance of the two-decade-old facility.

On the ground, NASA and SpaceX engineers were working hard as well. Due to Crew 11 returning to Earth more than a month early, NASA and SpaceX quickly arranged the launch of the Crew-12 vehicle ahead of schedule. This decision aimed to reduce the time Williams had to manage the US section of the ISS alone.

The mission culminated with a successful launch of the SpaceX Dragon spacecraft early on Friday, allowing the new crew to arrive at the station on Saturday evening.

Jared Isaacman, NASA's administrator, praised the mission's efficiency in a news conference after the launch. He highlighted that Crew 11's early return and the expedited Crew 12 launch occurred alongside preparations for the Artemis II mission. Isaacman credited the exceptional talent at NASA as well as its contractors and international partners for making these rapid changes possible.

Looking ahead, the ISS continues to play a vital role in scientific research, and the presence of Crew-12 members will support ongoing projects on the station.

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### Vocabulary List:

1. **Departure** /dɪˈpɑːr.tʃər/ (noun): The act of leaving especially to start a journey.
2. **Maintenance** /ˈmeɪn.tən.əns/ (noun): The process of preserving a condition or worth.
3. **Expedited** /ˈɛk.spə.daɪt.ɪd/ (adjective): Done with speed; hasty.
4. **Culminated** /ˈkʌl.mɪ.neɪ.tɪd/ (verb): Reached a climax or point of highest development.
5. **Efficiency** /ɪˈfɪ.ə.n.si/ (noun): The ability to do something or produce something without wasting materials time or energy.
6. **Vital** /ˈvaɪ.təl/ (adjective): Absolutely necessary or important; essential.

### Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is a fossil?



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- Option: A preserved remains of ancient organisms  
Option: A type of rock formation  
Option: A meteorological phenomenon  
Option: An extinct species
2. Which of the following best describes an ecosystem?  
Option: A community of living organisms and their environment  
Option: A group of identical species  
Option: A geographical area without life  
Option: A collection of fossils
3. What is the role of a predator in an ecosystem?  
Option: To create food  
Option: To control the population of prey species  
Option: To decompose organic matter  
Option: To provide shelter
4. Biodiversity refers to what?  
Option: The variety of life in the world  
Option: The number of species in one ecosystem  
Option: The extinction of species  
Option: The climate diversity
5. What is a key element of scientific progress?  
Option: Discovery  
Option: Repetition  
Option: Confirmation  
Option: Following traditions
6. Palaeontology is the study of what?  
Option: Ancient life through fossils  
Option: Astrological phenomena  
Option: Current ecosystems  
Option: Living species
7. What is a specimen in a scientific context?  
Option: A single example of a species  
Option: A type of fossil  
Option: An observational result  
Option: A theoretical concept
8. What does celestial relate to?  
Option: Heavenly bodies like stars and planets



- Option: Earthly creatures
- Option: Biological studies
- Option: Oceanic depths

9. In astronomy what does syzygy refer to?

- Option: The alignment of celestial bodies
- Option: A type of star
- Option: The study of galaxies
- Option: The calculation of light years

10. What is the primary purpose of an observatory?

- Option: To observe celestial phenomena
- Option: To house fossils
- Option: To maintain biodiversity
- Option: To conduct ecological surveys

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

11. A \_\_\_\_\_ is formed when organic material is preserved over millions of years.
12. An \_\_\_\_\_ consists of living organisms interacting with their environment.
13. Certain species can \_\_\_\_\_ in extreme conditions.
14. In the food chain a \_\_\_\_\_ hunts and eats other animals.
15. High \_\_\_\_\_ is essential for a healthy environment.
16. The exciting \_\_\_\_\_ of a new species can change our understanding of biology.
17. \_\_\_\_\_ helps us understand the history of life on Earth through fossils.
18. A well-preserved \_\_\_\_\_ can provide valuable information about past climates.
19. Astronomers study various \_\_\_\_\_ phenomena including stars and planets.
20. An \_\_\_\_\_ event occurs when one celestial body moves into the shadow of another.

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

21. A fossil is an ancient remnant of a living organism that has been preserved over time.



22. An ecosystem includes all the living organisms in a particular area and their interactions with the environment.
23. Plant species often thrive in conditions that are ideal for their growth.
24. A predator is an animal that hunts and eats other animals for survival.
25. Biodiversity is crucial for maintaining ecological balance in the environment.
26. The discovery of a new species can provide insights into evolutionary history.
27. Palaeontology is the scientific study of the history of life on Earth through fossils.
28. A specimen in research refers to an individual organism or a sample used for study.
29. Celestial bodies include all natural objects in space such as stars planets and moons.
30. Eclipsing is a phenomenon that occurs when one object moves into the shadow of another in space.

## Answer

**Multiple Choice:** 1. A preserved remains of ancient organisms 2. A community of living organisms and their environment 3. To control the population of prey species 4. The variety of life in the world 5. Discovery 6. Ancient life through fossils 7. A single example of a species 8. Heavenly bodies like stars and planets 9. The alignment of celestial bodies 10. To observe celestial phenomena

**Gap-Fill:** 11. fossil 12. ecosystem 13. thrive 14. predator 15. biodiversity 16. discovery 17. Palaeontology 18. specimen 19. celestial 20. eclipsing

**Matching sentence:** 1. fossil 2. ecosystem 3. thrive 4. predator 5. biodiversity 6. discovery 7. palaeontology 8. specimen 9. celestial 10. eclipsing

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