



Why Americans Land Spacecraft in Oceans, Russians on Solid Ground

Description

On April 10, the Orion spacecraft from NASA's Artemis II mission landed in the ocean near San Diego. The ocean is difficult for landings. Waves and sinking can cause problems. It costs a lot to rescue astronauts from the sea. If the spacecraft landed on land, trucks could pick them up easily.

NASA uses ocean landings because they are safer. When spacecraft return to Earth, they come fast. Orion hit a speed of Mach 35. Slowing down for a soft landing is hard. Parachutes help, but the spacecraft still moves fast when it hits the water.

Landing in the ocean is better for safety. If the landing is not perfect, there is less risk in the sea than on land. Land has mountains and cities, which can be dangerous. Russian spacecraft, like Soyuz, land on land. They slow down using rockets just before landing.

American companies are trying to land on land too. Boeing's Starliner will use air-filled bags to land softly. They hope to land in different areas across the U.S. In September 2024, a Starliner safely landed in New Mexico after a test flight.

Vocabulary List:

1. **spacecraft** //ˈspeɪs,kɹæft// (noun): a vehicle made to travel in outer space
2. **parachutes** //ˈpærəˌʃuːts// (noun): large cloth devices that slow a person's fall
3. **rockets** //ˈrɒkɪts// (noun): vehicles that burn fuel to move into the sky
4. **rescue** //ˈreskjʊː// (verb): to save someone from danger or harm
5. **sinking** //ˈsɪŋkɪŋ// (noun): going down below the water surface
6. **risk** //rɪsk// (noun): the chance that something bad will happen

Comprehension Questions

Multiple Choice

1. What mission was the Orion spacecraft part of when it landed near San Diego?

Option: Apollo 11

Option: Artemis II



Option: Gemini 5
Option: Challenger

2. What speed did Orion hit during its return to Earth?

Option: Mach 10
Option: Mach 20
Option: Mach 35
Option: Mach 45

3. Why does NASA prefer ocean landings?

Option: It's cheaper
Option: It's easier to rescue astronauts
Option: It's less risky than land
Option: It allows for faster transport

4. What type of landing technology is Boeing's Starliner planning to use?

Option: Rockets
Option: Parachutes
Option: Air-filled bags
Option: Wings

5. Where did the Starliner land safely after a test flight?

Option: California
Option: Florida
Option: Texas
Option: New Mexico

6. Which country's spacecraft, the Soyuz, lands on land?

Option: Japan
Option: USA
Option: Russia
Option: China

True-False

7. The Orion spacecraft landed on land near San Diego.

8. Parachutes help slow down the spacecraft during landing.



9. Landing in the ocean poses more risks than landing on land.
10. American companies are only focusing on ocean landings.
11. Orion's landing speed was faster than Mach 30.
12. Boeing's Starliner has successfully landed in multiple areas across the U.S. already.

Gap-Fill

13. The Orion spacecraft from NASA's Artemis II mission landed in the ocean near _____.
14. If the spacecraft landed on land, _____ could pick them up easily.
15. Landing in the ocean is better for _____.
16. Russian spacecraft, like Soyuz, land on _____.
17. In September 2024, a Starliner safely landed in _____ after a test flight.
18. NASA uses ocean landings because they are _____.

Answer

- Multiple Choice:** 1. Artemis II 2. Mach 35 3. It's less risky than land 4. Air-filled bags 5. New Mexico 6. Russia
True-False: 7. False 8. True 9. False 10. False 11. True 12. False
Gap-Fill: 13. San Diego 14. trucks 15. safety 16. land 17. New Mexico 18. safer

Vocabulary quizzes

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

1. What is the primary vehicle used for traveling to space?
Option: Helicopter
Option: Space Shuttle
Option: Car
Option: Train



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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

CATEGORY

1. Sci/Tech - LEVEL1

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