



## SpaceX Success

### Why did they launch from Florida?

- Florida is on the east coast of the USA.
- If rockets launch easterly over the Atlantic ocean, they get a boost from the Earth's spin.

Illustration: SpaceX spaceship.

## SpaceX Launch Astronauts to ISS

It is an exciting time for space fans at the moment. A new **era** of space flight is underway.

On Saturday, NASA and SpaceX launched astronauts from the US for the first time in almost ten years.

Bob Behnken and Doug Hurley were the crew on the spaceship. They travelled at about 17 000mph to the International Space Centre (**ISS**).

They will stay on the ISS helping to carry out scientific studies. They think this could take up to four months. This means they will eat, sleep and work on the ISS in space.

After their mission, the astronauts will go back to the spaceship. It will **undock** from the space station, return home and splash down in the ocean not far from where they took off.

This is a huge step in current space flight and future space travel.

It is the first time a **commercial company** has blasted humans into space using its own rocket.

It also will help with "future missions to

the Moon, Mars, and beyond," according to the SpaceX website.

This is a big step because humans have never set foot on Mars. There has also only ever been six manned missions to the Moon. Apollo 17 was the last, way back in 1972.

The success of this launch means that companies like SpaceX are on track to return people to the Moon by 2024.

With more missions exploring space, who knows where we will be able to travel to in the future?

### Glossary

**era** A long and significant period of history.

**ISS** A space station that orbits the Earth which astronauts can live on.

**undock** Detach from another craft in space.

**commercial company** A company that is organised to make money.

# Questions

1. What was the name of the last manned mission to the Moon?

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2. "A new era of space flight is underway." Tick the word which is closest in meaning to **underway**.

- ☐ has begun
- ☐ underground
- ☐ will begin
- ☐ already over

3. When does NASA plan to return humans to the Moon?

Tick one.

- ☐ 1972
- ☐ 2020
- ☐ 2024
- ☐ 1969

4. Find one example from the article of why Florida is used as a location to launch rockets from.

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5. Do you think humans will ever land on Mars?

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6. Summarise the key information in this story in 20 words or fewer.

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# Answers

1. What was the name of the last manned mission to the Moon?

**Apollo 17**

2. "A new era of space flight is underway." Tick the word which is closest in meaning to **underway**.

- ☒ **has begun**  
☐ underground  
☐ will begin  
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3. When does NASA plan to return humans to the Moon?

Tick one.

- ☐ 1972  
☐ 2020  
☒ **2024**  
☐ 1969

4. Find one example from the article of why Florida is used as a location to launch rockets from.

**Accept any answer which refers to Florida on the east coast. This means that they can launch rockets easterly and get a boost from the Earth's spin.**

5. Do you think humans will ever land on Mars?

**Accept any reasonable answer, e.g. I think that humans will land on Mars because this space flight has given SpaceX more confidence to go further.**

6. Summarise the key information in this story in 20 words or fewer.

**Accept any reasonable answer which summarises the story in 20 words or fewer, e.g. SpaceX have launched their first astronauts to the ISS. They will live on the ISS doing science research before returning.**