

Space Exploration



1 A Quick Quiz How much do you know about space?

Circle the correct answer:

When was the first space shuttle launched?	1975	1981	1964	1985
When did Apollo 11 land on the moon?	1962	1965	1969	1971
How many planets are there in our solar system?	8	9	10	11
What is the name of the largest planet?	Mercury	Saturn	Mars	Jupiter
What is the name of the smallest planet?	Mars	Mercury	Venus	Uranus

2 Vocabulary #1 Match the word / idiom with its correct meaning.

tulle (adj)	astronaut from Russia / former USSR
subsidize (v)	something that deserves your time, effort or money
worthy (adj)	to state publicly that something is true or real
be only a matter of time (phor)	useless actions having no chance of success.
enormous (adj)	something will only be known in the future
proclaim (v)	to pay part of something
only time will tell (phor)	be sure that something will happen (but not sure when)

3 Reading Quickly read the following text, and make brief notes in the table on the next page.



Space exploration is an expensive business. Each NASA space shuttle trip costs about \$900m; the Hubble Space Telescope cost \$5bn; the International Space Station, \$155bn. The achievements of space exploration seem little to many, who question whether it is really worth subsidizing. Critics say the money, which is mostly funded by tax-payers, would be better spent on more worthy projects such as education and health.

With the world extensively mapped after centuries of exploration, it was only a matter of time before efforts turned to exploring the world beyond. In 1957 the USSR launched the first satellite into space. Four years later, in 1961, Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space proclaiming 'The Earth is blue'. In 1969 the Apollo 11 crew became the first to set foot on the moon. Since then, we have had two space shuttle disasters, the exploration of Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune and Mars and all manner of space stations, satellites and probes. Space exploration has certainly led to greater knowledge about the universe. However the practical benefits are less obvious.

Even those working in the space industry admit space exploration is expensive, and the results of many space projects may not satisfy a public brought up on science-fiction fantasies. However, the benefits of space exploration are enormous. The space industry employs thousands of people. The European Space