

American astronaut breaks space record

Elementary

1 Warmer

Put these famous events in space in order from 1 (the earliest) to 6 (the latest).

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 1. _____ | a. the first man on the moon |
| 2. _____ | b. the first woman in space |
| 3. _____ | c. work begins on the International Space Station |
| 4. _____ | d. the first telescope |
| 5. _____ | e. the discovery of the planet Uranus |
| 6. _____ | f. the first man in space |

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

gravity

astronaut

orbit

cosmonaut

capsule

miss

1. An _____ is someone who travels and works in space. (para 1)
2. A _____ is a Russian astronaut. (para 2)
3. A _____ is the part of a space vehicle people travel in. (para 3)
4. When space station and satellites _____ the Earth, they go around it. (para 3)
5. _____ is the force that makes things fall to the ground. (para 4)
6. If you _____ something, you feel sad because you do not have it any more. (para 4)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. How long did Peggy Whitson spend in space?
2. How long did Christina Koch spend in space?
3. When did Christina Koch return to Earth?
4. Where did her capsule land?
5. How far did she travel on the International Space Station?
6. What did she miss while she was on the International Space Station?

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5 March, 2020

- 1 In 2017, American astronaut Peggy Whitson spent 289 days on the International Space Station (ISS). That was a record for a female astronaut. Now another American astronaut, Christina Koch, has broken that record.
- 2 Christina Koch, who studied electrical engineering and physics, travelled to the ISS on 12 March, 2019, to work there as an engineer. On 18 October, Koch and her colleague Jessica Meir completed the first all-female space walk. Then, on 28 December, Koch broke Peggy Whitson's record for the longest time in space by a female astronaut. Russian cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov holds the male record – 14 months in space.
- 3 Koch returned to Earth on 6 February, 2020, in a Soyuz capsule with Russian cosmonaut

Aleksander Skvortsov and Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano. Koch spent a total of 328 days in space. During this time, the ISS orbited the Earth more than 5,000 times and travelled more than 200 million kilometres. Each day, Koch saw 16 sunsets and 16 sunrises.

- 4 There is no gravity in space, so the astronauts on the ISS can float around in the air like swimmers swimming in water. But when they return to Earth, they cannot walk at first because of gravity. When the capsule landed in Kazakhstan, engineers on the ground had to carry Koch from the capsule. A journalist asked her what she missed while she was on the ISS. "I missed the feeling of wind on my face," Koch said. Then the journalist asked her what she would miss from her time on the ISS. "I'm going to miss the incredible views!" she said.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Christina Koch and Jessica Meir were ... | a. ... because of gravity. |
| 2. Astronauts float around in space ... | b. ... more than 5,000 times. |
| 3. When they return to Earth, it's difficult to walk at first ... | c. ... the first all-female team to walk in space. |
| 4. Christina Koch saw ... | d. ... the incredible views. |
| 5. She orbited the Earth ... | e. ... 16 sunsets and 16 sunrises each day. |
| 6. She enjoyed ... | f. ... because there is no gravity. |

5 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. break | a. walk |
| 2. space | b. engineering |
| 3. float | c. a record |
| 4. electrical | d. around |

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6 Prepositions

Complete the phrases with the correct prepositions.

of at in for during

1. There is no gravity _____ space.
2. record _____ the longest time in space
3. a total _____ 328 days
4. _____ first
5. _____ this time

7 Word stress

Put these words from the text into three groups according to their stress.

female astronaut record (n) sixteen capsule around
journalist gravity colleague complete return

A 0 0	B 0 0	C 0 0 0

8 Discussion

- Would you like to spend time on the International Space Station? Why? Why not?

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KEY

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1. d. the first telescope (1608)
2. e. the discovery of the planet Uranus (1781)
3. f. the first man in space (1961, Yuri Gagarin)
4. b. the first woman in space (1963, Valentina Tereshkova)
5. a. the first man on the moon (1969, Neil Armstrong)
6. c. work begins on the International Space Station (1998)

2 Key words

1. astronaut
2. cosmonaut
3. capsule
4. orbit
5. gravity
6. miss

3 Find the information

1. 289 days
2. 328 days
3. on 6 February, 2020
4. in Kazakhstan
5. more than 200 million kilometres
6. the feeling of wind on her face

4 Comprehension check

1. c
2. f
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. d

5 Two-word phrases

1. c
2. a
3. d
4. b

6 Prepositions

1. in
2. for
3. of
4. at
5. during

7 Word stress

A 0 0	B 0 0	C 0 0 0
female record capsule colleague	sixteen around complete return	astronaut journalist gravity