



Astronaut Riddles

30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 I'm tall and pointy. I roar, I blast out fire, and I carry astronauts up into space. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 2 I have my own air supply, a helmet and thick gloves. Without me, an astronaut could never step outside the spaceship. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 3 Twelve astronauts have walked on me, and their footprints are still there, because I have no wind or rain to wipe them away. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 4 Ten, nine, eight... I count backward, and when I reach zero, the rocket lifts off. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 5 From space, I look like a blue marble with white swirls. Astronauts float by the window, look down at me and miss home. What am I?
ANSWER _____
- 6 On the space station, pencils, crumbs, water drops and astronauts all do this instead of falling to the floor. What do they do?
ANSWER _____
- 7 In 1969, I climbed down a ladder and became the first person ever to step onto the Moon. Who am I?
ANSWER _____
- 8 What's an astronaut's favorite key on a computer keyboard?
ANSWER _____
- 9 Why didn't the astronaut feel hungry after blasting off?
ANSWER _____
- 10 Astronauts have walked on the Moon but never on me, the red planet. A trip to me would take about seven months each way. What am I?
ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 11 My name comes from two Greek words that mean "star" and "sailor." Who am I?
ANSWER _____

12 On April 12, 1961, I became the first human ever to travel into space, circling Earth once in a spacecraft called Vostok 1. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

13 In 1963, I became the first woman in space and spent almost three days orbiting Earth. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

14 Astronauts on the International Space Station circle Earth about once every 90 minutes. About how many sunrises do they see in one day?

ANSWER _____

15 Bread is a problem in space because its crumbs float into the equipment. What flat food do astronauts use for sandwiches instead?

ANSWER _____

16 When Apollo 13 had a problem on the way to the Moon, an astronaut radioed a famous line that started with the name of the city where Mission Control is. Which city?

ANSWER _____

17 In the United States, I'm called an astronaut. In Russia, I have a different name. What is it?

ANSWER _____

18 When an astronaut goes outside the spacecraft, tied on with a safety line, to fix something, what is it called?

ANSWER _____

19 To practice spacewalks on Earth, astronauts in full spacesuits train inside something huge and full of water. What is it?

ANSWER _____

20 Astronauts use me to stick cups, pens and food packets to the walls so they don't float away. I have tiny hooks on one side and tiny loops on the other. What am I?

ANSWER _____

21 If an astronaut shouts as loud as she can during a spacewalk, how much does an astronaut floating right next to her hear through the empty space between them?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★ ★

22 Astronauts often come back from a long stay in space a few centimeters taller. Why?

ANSWER _____

23 An astronaut gets teary-eyed watching Earth out the window. Where do her tears go?

ANSWER _____

24 Astronauts on the space station don't lie down in a bed. How do they keep from drifting around while they sleep?

ANSWER _____

25 On the Moon, the Sun can be shining brightly while the sky stays completely black. Why?

ANSWER _____

26 True or false: you can see the Great Wall of China from the Moon with your own eyes.

ANSWER _____

27 During Apollo 14 in 1971, astronaut Alan Shepard did something on the Moon nobody had done before: he played a sport. Which one?

ANSWER _____

28 On the International Space Station, yesterday's sweat and urine become something astronauts use every day. What?

ANSWER _____

29 In 1992, I became the first African American woman in space, aboard the shuttle Endeavour. I'm also a medical doctor, and I once appeared on an episode of Star Trek. Who am I?

ANSWER _____

30 On Apollo 11, two astronauts walked on the Moon. The third stayed in the command module, circling the Moon alone. Who was he?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Astronaut Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. A rocket
2. A spacesuit
3. The Moon
4. The countdown
5. Earth
6. Float
7. Neil Armstrong
8. The space bar
9. Because she'd just had a huge launch.
10. Mars
11. An astronaut
12. Yuri Gagarin
13. Valentina Tereshkova
14. About 16
15. Tortillas
16. Houston ("Houston, we've had a problem.")
17. A cosmonaut
18. A spacewalk
19. A giant swimming pool. Floating underwater feels a lot like floating in space.
20. Hook-and-loop tape, often called Velcro
21. Nothing. Space has no air to carry sound, so they talk by radio.
22. Without gravity pressing down, the discs in their spines spread out a little. They shrink back after a few months on Earth.
23. Nowhere. They don't roll down her cheeks; they collect in a wobbly blob of water on her eye until she wipes it away.
24. They zip into sleeping bags that are fastened to the wall.
25. The Moon has no atmosphere. On Earth, air scatters sunlight and makes the sky blue; with no air, the sky stays black.
26. False. The wall is far too narrow to see from that distance.
27. Golf. He hit two golf balls.
28. Drinking water. The station recycles almost all of its water.
29. Mae Jemison
30. Michael Collins

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/astronaut-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.