

## Bright Skies



**NASA's Artemis II crew returned safely to Earth on April 10. Learn about the historic moon mission.**

**LEXILE:** 1090L

**SOCIAL STUDIES (NCSS) STANDARD:** Earth's Place in the Universe

**COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS:** RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.7, W.6-8.8

### ENGAGE THE READER

Start the lesson by showing images from the Artemis II mission ([nasa.gov/artemis-ii-multimedia](https://nasa.gov/artemis-ii-multimedia)). Ask students if they followed any of the mission, and invite those who did to share their thoughts. Ask students what they think inspires someone to be an astronaut. Is anyone interested in going to space? Show students the video about the Artemis II astronauts at [ti.me/ArtemisVideo](https://ti.me/ArtemisVideo) before reading the article.

### QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Describe the Artemis II mission and its importance to the Artemis program.
- Do you think the Artemis program is a worthwhile investment? Why or why not?
- How do you think the astronauts aboard this mission felt? Explain.

### EXTEND LEARNING

Have students take out a notebook and jot down their reactions to the following statements: "Learning about space is important," "There is value in sending humans to space," "Space travel is expensive," "Astronauts inspire future scientists," and "Space travel is risky." Then tell students they'll be taking part in a debate. Pose the following question: "Should we send people to space?" Give students time to write down some initial thoughts. Bring the class together to share some ideas. Ask if anyone's opinions were influenced by the video or article they saw in the lesson.

Have students form small groups, based on their answers to the question. Give them time to discuss and do further research to support their opinions. Each group should include some data in its argument. Close the lesson with a class debate.

### COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 2 of this guide.

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

**1. B** (RI.1) **2. D** (RI.1) **3. B** (RI.2) **4. D** (RI.6) **5. C** (RI.5)

**6. A** (RI.7) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.2)

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date** \_\_\_\_\_

Use this week’s cover story, “Bright Skies,” to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p><b>1.</b> Which astronaut piloted the Artemis II mission?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> Reid Wiseman</li> <li><b>B.</b> Victor Glover</li> <li><b>C.</b> Jeremy Hansen</li> <li><b>D.</b> Christina Koch</li> </ul>	<p><b>4.</b> According to his quotes, what does Amit Kshatriya believe?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> Traveling to the moon is a great adventure.</li> <li><b>B.</b> Astronauts are ready to travel anywhere in space.</li> <li><b>C.</b> All the credit belongs to the crew of the Artemis II mission.</li> <li><b>D.</b> Everyone’s work leading up to the mission prepared Artemis II for success.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2.</b> What challenge did the Artemis II mission face?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> The heat shield malfunctioned during the crew’s reentry.</li> <li><b>B.</b> A lunar eclipse prevented the crew from seeing the moon.</li> <li><b>C.</b> This was the first spacecraft to travel around the moon in 54 years.</li> <li><b>D.</b> The spacecraft used had never carried people before.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5.</b> Which best describes how the information in the main text is organized?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> comparing and contrasting the different Artemis missions</li> <li><b>B.</b> explaining problems the mission had and how they were solved</li> <li><b>C.</b> describing the Artemis II mission and the events leading up to it</li> <li><b>D.</b> a how-to explanation of a moon landing</li> </ul>
<p><b>3.</b> Why is the Artemis II mission historic?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> It proved that humans are capable of making it to Mars.</li> <li><b>B.</b> The crew traveled farther from Earth than anyone else before.</li> <li><b>C.</b> Its lunar landers were successful.</li> <li><b>D.</b> It collected valuable resources from the moon’s surface.</li> </ul>	<p><b>6.</b> Which part of the spacecraft returned to Earth with the astronauts?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>A.</b> the capsule</li> <li><b>B.</b> ICPS</li> <li><b>C.</b> Orion</li> <li><b>D.</b> the Space Launch System</li> </ul>

**7.** Summarize the Artemis II mission in your own words.

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