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# BACK TO EARTH WITH A BUMP!

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Reported by Amanda Kelper, Media Correspondent, London

Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the best part of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times, the crew returned home to Earth in a capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour. The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'



*Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.*

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Germany where he is getting used to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.

Peake recently commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim said he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

Having been recognised by the Queen for his services to science, Tim is now a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. He dedicated this award to his entire team.

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# Questions

1. How long did Tim Peake spend aboard the ISS? Tick **one**.

- six years
- four months
- six months
- two years

2. Who wrote this newspaper report?

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3. What is ISS short for? Tick **one**.

- International Space Shuttle
- International Space Station
- Inspirational Space Station
- International Science Station

4. Explain what the purpose of the mission was. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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5. Where did the astronauts land? Tick **one**.

- Germany
- Russia
- Kazakhstan
- Great Britain

6. **Find** and **copy** a phrase that shows that Tim would **hurry back to space**.

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7. What award has Tim been given by the Queen? Tick one.

- MCG
- GCM
- CGM
- CMG

# Answers

1. How long did Tim Peake spend aboard the ISS? Tick **one**.

- six years
- four months
- six months**
- two years

2. Who wrote this newspaper report?

**Amanda Kelper**

3. What is ISS short for? Tick **one**.

- International Space Shuttle
- International Space Station**
- Inspirational Space Station
- International Science Station

4. Explain what the purpose of the mission was. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: The purpose of the mission was to conduct experiments, test out new technologies and to inspire the next generation of astronauts.**

5. Where did the astronauts land? Tick **one**.

- Germany
- Russia
- Kazakhstan**
- Great Britain

6. **Find** and **copy** a phrase that shows that Tim would **hurry back to space** in a heartbeat

7. What award has Tim been given by the Queen? Tick one.

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The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015 and in the months before take-off, they trained intensively for their trip. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the highlight of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station. Whilst away from home, Tim also ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times in 186 days, the crew returned home to Earth via a Soyuz capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour (25 times the speed of sound). The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Cologne, Germany where he is recovering and adjusting to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.



*Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.*

In a recent press conference, Peake commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim expressed how much he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

His service to science has earned him an honour from the Queen. Peake was made a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. In response, Tim said, 'I am only one privileged person in a complex team of technicians, scientists, engineers, educators, trainers and flight directors, all working in pursuit of one of the greatest scientific and technical challenges of our time – exploring our solar system for the benefit of people on Earth. This award is for them.'

Photo courtesy of NASA HQ PHOTO (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

# Questions

1. What is Amanda Kelper's job title?

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2. How many members of crew went to the ISS? Tick **one**.

2

4

3

1

3. Explain why this mission was particularly significant for Britain. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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4. How many days did the crew spend in space? Tick **one**.

3000

28 000

186

168

5. Where is the European Space Agency? Tick **one**.

Kazakhstan

Cologne

Russia

Great Britain

6. What did Peake find hard about being on board the ISS for so long? Explain your answer fully.

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7. **Find** and **copy** a word that shows that Tim considers himself to be lucky to be part of a team.

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8. What is CMG short for? Tick **one**.

- Company of the order of St Michael and St George
- Companion of the order of St Matthew and St George
- Companion of the organisation of St Michael and St George
- Companion of the order of St Michael and St George

# Answers

1. What is Amanda Kelper's job title?

**Media correspondent**

2. How many members of crew went to the ISS? Tick **one**.

- 2
- 4
- 3**
- 1

3. Explain why this mission was particularly significant for Britain. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupil's own response, such as: This mission was significant for Britain because Tim Peake was the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.**

4. How many days did the crew spend in space? Tick **one**.

- 3000
- 28 000
- 186**
- 168

5. Where is the European Space Agency? Tick **one**.

- Kazakhstan
- Cologne**
- Russia
- Great Britain

6. What did Peake find hard about being on board the ISS for so long? Explain your answer fully.

**Pupil's own response, such as: Peake found being away from his family and friends difficult and he missed them. He also missed the rain.**

7. **Find and copy** a word that shows that Tim considers himself to be lucky to be part of a team.  
**privileged**

8. What is CMG short for? Tick **one**.

- Company of the order of St Michael and St George
- Companion of the order of St Matthew and St George
- Companion of the organisation of St Michael and St George
- Companion of the order of St Michael and St George**

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The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015 and in the months before take-off, they trained intensively for their trip. Training involved learning to speak Russian, spending 12 days under the sea and a winter survival expedition.

During their space mission, the astronauts conducted experiments, tested out new technology and inspired the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the highlight of his trip was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station. Whilst he was 400km away from his home, Tim also ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times in 186 days, the crew returned home to Earth via a Soyuz capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour (25 times the speed of sound). The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely near the town of Zhezkazgan in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'



*Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.*

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Cologne, Germany where he is recovering and adjusting to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.

In a recent press conference, Peake commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim expressed how much he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

His service to science has earned him an honour from the Queen. Peake was made a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. In response, Tim said, 'I am only one privileged person in a complex team of technicians, scientists, engineers, educators, trainers and flight directors, all working in pursuit of one of the greatest scientific and technical challenges of our time – exploring our solar system for the benefit of people on Earth. This award is for them.'

Photo courtesy of NASA HQ PHOTO (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution



# Comprehension Questions

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. Who did Tim Peake stay on the ISS with?

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2. Explain fully how Tim prepared for his mission.

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3. Why do you think Tim ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill?

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4. What did the astronauts return to Earth in?

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5. In which town did the astronauts land? Tick one.

- Kazakhstan
- Cologne
- Zhezkazgan
- London

6. Find and copy a word which shows that Tim's body is changing now that he is back on Earth.

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7. Why were the astronauts carried from the capsule? Tick one.

- Their leg muscles were too weak.
- Their spacesuits were too heavy.
- They couldn't be bothered to walk.
- They weren't feeling well.

8. Why do you think Tim dedicated his CMG to the entire team?

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# Back To Earth With A Bump! Answers

1. Who did Tim Peake stay on the ISS with?

**Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra**

2. Explain fully how Tim prepared for his mission.

**Pupil's own response, such as: Tim prepared for his mission by learning to speak Russian, spending 12 days under the sea and taking part in a winter survival expedition.**

3. Why do you think Tim ran the equivalent of the London Marathon on his treadmill?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Tim ran the equivalent of the London Marathon in order to keep fit while he was on the ISS. It says in the text that the astronaut's legs were weak when they returned to Earth so it was important that the astronauts kept as fit as possible.**

4. What did the astronauts return to Earth in?

**a Soyuz capsule**

5. In which town did the astronauts land? Tick one.

Kazakhstan

Cologne

**Zhezkazgan**

London

6. Find and copy a word which shows that Tim's body is changing now that he is back on Earth.

**adjusting**

7. Why were the astronauts carried from the capsule? Tick one.

**Their leg muscles were too weak.**

Their spacesuits were too heavy.

They couldn't be bothered to walk.

They weren't feeling well.

8. Why do you think Tim dedicated his CMG to the entire team?

**Pupil's own response, such as: I think that Tim dedicated his CMG to his entire team because he said in the news report that he is part of a complex team who are all in pursuit of exploring the solar system for the benefit of people on Earth**