Parent Guide

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We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more engaging, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the Twinkl Parents website.

games

crafts

puzzles

experiments

word searches

What is this resource and how do I use it?

With features such as a headline, columns and a captioned picture, this activity is ideal for boosting your child's confidence in reading newspaper articles. Once they've read all about Rubio's landing back on Earth, they can check their understanding of the text with the ten reading comprehension questions.

What skills does this practise?

- Reading Comprehension
- Non-Fiction
- Newspaper Report

Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

For more space-themed fun, check out this **Phases of the Moon Craft Activity** and **Astronaut Diary Entry Activity**. Your child can learn more about the Moon landing with our **reading comprehension** and **board game**, or they can practise their maths skills with this **Space-Themed Coordinates Activity**.

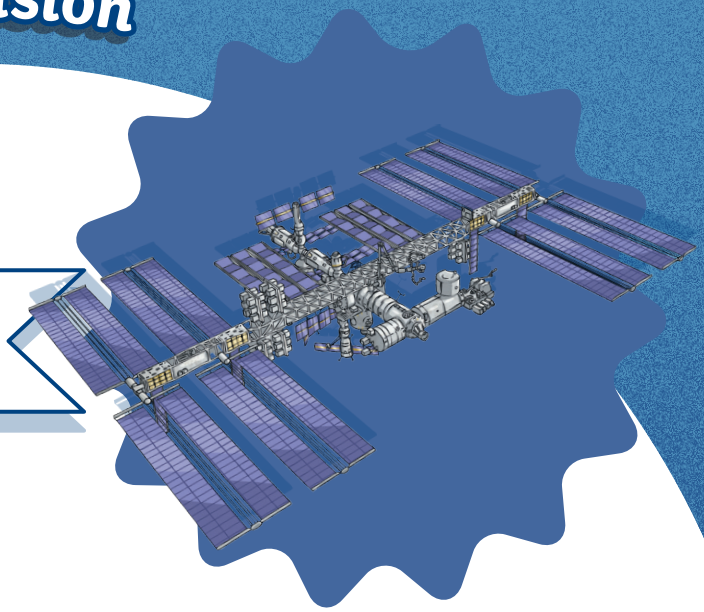
Parents Blog

Twinkl Kids' TV

Homework Help

twinkl Parents Hub

Year 5 Reading Comprehension



The Twinkl Times

75p September 28th, 2023

Record-Breaker Rubio Returns

After 371 days in space, Frank Rubio has landed back on Earth.

Yesterday, American astronaut Frank Rubio arrived back on Earth after over a year in orbit. Alongside his Russian colleagues Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin, Rubio touched down in Kazakhstan at around 3:54 a.m., thus bringing his record-breaking stint in space to an end.

Rubio's adventure began on the 21st of September 2022, when he joined Prokopyev and Petelin onboard the Soyuz MS-22 spacecraft. The trio were launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan with a mission – to dock at the International Space Station and perform science experiments in space. Rubio was tasked with studying the effects of being in space for a long period of time on the human body, as well as testing out zero-gravity exercise equipment. It was Rubio's first and only space flight; he wasn't originally planning on staying aboard the ISS for quite so long.

The mission was supposed to last only 188 days, but on the 15th of December 2022 the Soyuz MS-22 sprung a leak. It is believed that a micro-meteorite or some other natural debris may have collided with the spacecraft, creating a miniscule hole in an external cooling radiator. A planned space-walk was cancelled and Rubio waited inside the craft with Prokopyev and Petelin while engineers here on Earth assessed the damage.

The engineers on the ground decided that the MS-22, while safe to use in case of emergency, might not be the safest option for bringing the astronauts back down to Earth in March as planned. They sent up an unmanned craft – the Soyuz MS-23 – for the astronauts to use instead. This meant that they had to extend their stay on the ISS while the Soyuz MS-22 was sent back to Earth and the MS-23 arrived at the ISS.

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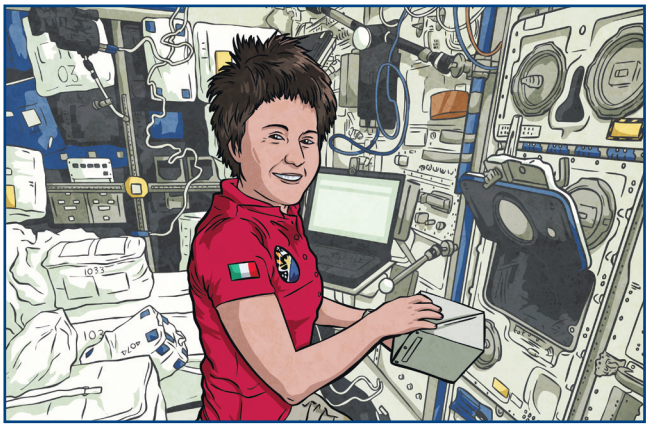
Yesterday marked a great achievement as the astronauts were finally able to return home after an astounding 371 days in space. It is estimated that Rubio orbited Earth around 5963 times during his stay on the ISS.

"To have flown with that many people... is really pretty special," Rubio was quoted as saying when asked about how he coped with being away from home for so long. 28 astronauts in total rotated on and off the ISS while he was living there.

So, what's next for Rubio? He told interviewers that he plans to relax in his backyard, but that it might take some time for his body to readjust to Earth's gravity. His research aboard the ISS will help inform future space flights and he can bask in the glory of being America's record holder for the longest time spent in space.



The International Space Station has been continuously manned by at least 7 people since November 2000.

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Questions

1 Complete this table using information from the introductory paragraph.

Who?	
When?	
Where?	
What?	

2 Draw lines to match the figures with what they measure.

75	Number of times Rubio orbited Earth.
188	Number of days Rubio was supposed to spend in space.
371	Number of days Rubio actually spent in space.
5963	Number of pennies needed to buy the newspaper.

3 What technique has the writer used to make the headline eye-catching? Circle one.

rhetorical question rhyming alliteration pun

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4 What was Rubio's task on the ISS?

It is believed that a micro-meteorite or some other natural debris may have collided with the spacecraft, creating a miniscule hole in an external cooling radiator.

5 Which word in this sentence is an antonym for **substantial**?

6 Can you find an example of each of these types of speech in the text?

Direct speech	
Indirect speech	

7 How do you think Rubio felt when he found out his stay on the ISS was going to be extended while they waited for the Soyuz MS-23 to rescue them?

8 Order the events of the article by writing a number next to each statement. The first one has been done for you.

	The Soyuz MS-22 sprang a leak from an external cooling radiator.
1	The Soyuz MS-22 was launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome.
	The Soyuz MS-23 touched down in Kazakhstan.
	A micro-meteorite collided with the Soyuz MS-22.
	The Soyuz MS-23 was sent up to the ISS, unmanned.

9 Summarise the events of the article in as few words as possible.

_____

_____

10 Do you think Rubio's mission was successful? Why/why not?

_____

_____

The Twinkl Times

Answers

1 Complete this table using information from the introductory paragraph.

Who?	Frank Rubio, Sergey Prokopyev and Dmitri Petelin
When?	3:54 a.m. on the 27th of September 2023
Where?	Kazakhstan
What?	They arrived back on Earth after over a year in orbit.

2 Draw lines to match the figures with what they measure.

75	Number of times Rubio orbited Earth.
188	Number of days Rubio was supposed to spend in space.
371	Number of days Rubio actually spent in space.
5963	Number of pennies needed to buy the newspaper.

3 What technique has the writer used to make the headline eye-catching? Circle one.

rhetorical question rhyming alliteration pun

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4

What was Rubio's task on the ISS?

to study the effects of being in space for a long period of time on the human body and test out zero-gravity exercise equipment

It is believed that a micro-meteorite or some other natural debris may have collided with the spacecraft, creating a miniscule hole in an external cooling radiator.

5

Which word in this sentence is an antonym for **substantial**?

miniscule

6

Can you find an example of each of these types of speech in the text?

Direct speech	"To have flown with that many people...is really pretty special,"
Indirect speech	He told interviewers that he plans to relax in his back yard, but that it might take some time for his body to readjust to Earth's gravity.

7

How do you think Rubio felt when he found out his stay on the ISS was going to be extended while they waited for the Soyuz MS-23 to rescue them?

Child's own answer, such as:

- **I think Rubio will have felt scared as he would not know when the Soyuz MS-23 would arrive.**
- **I think Rubio will have felt disappointed as he had already been away from his family for a long time.**
- **I think Rubio will have felt excited as he would have more time to work on his experiments and get the chance to break a record.**

8

Order the events of the article by writing a number next to each statement. The first one has been done for you.

3	The Soyuz MS-22 sprang a leak from an external cooling radiator.
1	The Soyuz MS-22 was launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome.
5	The Soyuz MS-23 touched down in Kazakhstan.
2	A micro-meteorite collided with the Soyuz MS-22.
4	The Soyuz MS-23 was sent up to the ISS, unmanned.

9

Summarise the events of the article in as few words as possible.

Frank Rubio and his colleagues landed safely back on Earth after 371 days in space, despite their first spacecraft having a leak and a second spacecraft needing to rescue them.

10 Do you think Rubio's mission was successful? Why/why not?

Child's own answer, such as:

- **Yes, I think Rubio's mission was successful as he managed to do a lot of research and experiments which will be used to help future space flights.**
- **No, I think Rubio's mission was not successful because they had aimed to return home much sooner.**

We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.

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