

Name _____

Blast Off into the Cosmos: The Thrilling Story of Space Exploration

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Apollo missions were a series of missions that landed humans on the moon for the first time in history. The most famous of these missions, Apollo 11, saw Neil Armstrong become the first person to walk on the moon, a monumental achievement in space exploration history.
2. Colonizing Mars could offer a backup plan for humanity in case of catastrophic events on Earth, as well as opportunities for scientific research, resource utilization, and the expansion of human civilization beyond our home planet.
3. Private companies like SpaceX and Blue Origin are driving innovation in space technology and reducing the cost of access to space. They are also involved in ambitious plans for space tourism and commercial ventures, contributing to the growing space economy.
4. Space telescopes, such as the Hubble Space Telescope, provide unparalleled views of the universe, helping scientists study distant galaxies, stars, and planets. They have revolutionized our understanding of the cosmos and continue to make important discoveries.

