

Civic Minds

Date: Friday, March 4, 2016

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Article Title: **American astronaut returns to Earth after 340 days in space**

Section: Main, A1

Vocabulary:

Look up the definition of **unprecedented**. Please write the definition and create a new sentence, using your own words.

“Astronaut Scott Kelly closed the door Tuesday to an **unprecedented** year in space for NASA, flying back to the planet and loved ones he left behind last March.”

Comprehension Questions

1. Kelly and his roommate for the past 340 days, Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko, checked out of the International Space Station on Tuesday night and landed in Kazakhstan _____ hours later.
2. The pair have traveled _____ million miles through space, circled the world _____ times and experienced _____ orbital sunrises and sunsets.
3. Who piloted the Soyuz capsule home to Kazakhstan? Can you locate Kazakhstan on a map?
4. How many crewmen stayed behind in the space station?
5. What will the two spacemen undergo following touchdown? Why?
6. For NASA, that mission possible is _____.
7. Scientists are hoping for more one-year subjects as NASA gears up for human expeditions to Mars. When are they projecting this will happen?
8. What will be a few top challenges for such a long space expedition?
9. The choice of the pioneering Kelly turned out to be a bonanza. Why?
10. Kelly has spent more time in space, altogether, than any other American: _____ days over the course of four missions.

Class Discussion Questions and Essay Prompts:

“A year now seems longer than I thought it would be,” Kelly confided a couple of weeks ago. It wasn’t quite a year — 340 days to be precise, based on the Russian launch and landing schedule. But still record-smashing for NASA.

- Would you leave your family & friends for an entire year (or more) on behalf of space exploration? Why or why not?

“Those of us who dream of sending astronauts to deep space thank Scott Kelly for his sacrifice,” said Jim Green, director of planetary science for NASA, “and are thrilled to welcome him home.”

- We recognize military personnel and their families as personally sacrificing for our country. Have you ever thought of astronauts in that same category? Why or why not?
- Do you believe that we'll be sending astronauts to Mars and other planets? Why or why not?

Essay

“A really smart person said to me one time, ‘Teamwork makes the dream work in spaceflight,’ and spaceflight is the biggest team sport there is,” Kelly said Monday. He acknowledged each of the 13 U.S., Russian, European and Japanese space fliers with whom he and Kornienko lived during the past year.

“It’s incredibly important that we all work together to make what is seemingly impossible, possible.”

- Do you agree that, “Teamwork makes the dream work in spaceflight?” Why or why not?
- Is it important for many countries to work together on space missions? Why or why not?
- Why does America feel behind Russia in terms of space exploration?
- What other areas does teamwork help in creating successful situations?
- Describe an experience where you were a team player? Did everyone do their fair share? Why or why not?

Newspaper-related CBA activity: U.S. Policy

How the United States government interacts with the world affects people across the globe. Analyze and evaluate the causes and effects of US foreign policy on people in the United States and across the world.

- Using The Seattle Times e-Edition, find an article from this week that deals with world politics or foreign policy.
- What are the main points of view from someone living in that particular country? How is that “view” similar and different than your own opinion, regarding the specific issue the article is discussing?
- Why is it important to study and learn about foreign policy? How does it help you understand the world we live in, using current issues and events?

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