

Name _____ Date _____

Instructions: Read each question carefully and choose the best answer.

1. What was the author's main purpose for writing *Private Spaceships*?
 - Ⓐ to entertain readers with a story about a space traveler
 - Ⓑ to inform readers about commercial spacecraft
 - Ⓒ to persuade readers to buy a ticket on a private spaceship
 - Ⓓ to explain to readers how NASA ended its space shuttle program
2. Read this sentence: *Atlantis flew the last shuttle **mission** into space for NASA. A mission is _____.*
 - Ⓐ the path taken by one object in space, circling around a larger object
 - Ⓑ the connecting of two vehicles in space
 - Ⓒ a set purpose for doing something; a special task or assignment
 - Ⓓ a vehicle used for traveling in space
3. What is the main idea in the section titled "The Dawn of a New Era"?
 - Ⓐ Private companies entered the space business, offering new and exciting options for the future.
 - Ⓑ Commercial companies had a lot to learn.
 - Ⓒ What the companies lacked in experience, they made up for in enthusiasm.
 - Ⓓ When the Space Age began, only the world's two superpowers had the money, resources, and technology needed to build vehicles that could travel into space.

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4. Moving cargo from Earth to the International Space Station is extremely expensive. How did SpaceX work to solve this problem?
 - Ⓐ They built a "balloon habitat."
 - Ⓑ They built a crewless, reusable spacecraft.
 - Ⓒ They retired NASA's old spacecraft.
 - Ⓓ They closed the ISS.
5. How were the first paid visits into space the same as the visits being offered by *SpaceShipTwo*?
 - Ⓐ Individual trips cost up to \$35 million.
 - Ⓑ Space tourists spend many days in space.
 - Ⓒ Space tourists experience weightlessness in space.
 - Ⓓ The spacecraft used to carry up to six passengers at a time.
6. What happened after NASA decided to return to its original mission of focusing on space science and exploration?
 - Ⓐ NASA planned new missions to send robotic rovers and people to exciting destinations.
 - Ⓑ The space shuttle *Atlantis* touched down at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
 - Ⓒ NASA began sending more shuttles into space.
 - Ⓓ NASA started to deconstruct the International Space Station.
7. Which of the following sentences informs?
 - Ⓐ Are you ready for the commercial space age?
 - Ⓑ Since it was first crewed on November 2, 2000, the ISS has never been empty.
 - Ⓒ It was sad to see the shuttle program end.
 - Ⓓ Wouldn't you love to experience weightlessness?

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8. Which of the following tells the meaning of **docking**?

- Ⓐ buying and selling goods and services
- Ⓑ people who start and operate their own business
- Ⓒ the connecting of two vehicles in space
- Ⓓ the science or practice of flight

9. Which of the following results from crews working and living on board space stations?

- Ⓐ Scientists can do experiments in a high-gravity environment.
- Ⓑ Scientists can only conduct experiments that can also be conducted on Earth.
- Ⓒ Scientists can study the effects of long-term missions on people.
- Ⓓ Scientists can't live and study in near-weightlessness

10. What caused commercial companies to become involved in the space business?

- Ⓐ The United States of America and the Soviet Union were the only countries traveling into space.
- Ⓑ The space shuttles could only be used for simpler tasks such as launching satellites.
- Ⓒ There had been 135 missions to space since 1981.
- Ⓓ NASA was getting out of the business of carrying people and things back and forth between Earth and space.

11. **Extended Response:** Pick one of the spaceships described in this book and tell why you think its design is the best.

12. **Extended Response:** List some of the things that need to be considered when designing a spaceship.

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Private Spaceships

Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

1. Ⓑ Author's Purpose
2. Ⓒ Vocabulary
3. Ⓐ Main Idea and Details
4. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
5. Ⓒ Compare and Contrast
6. Ⓐ Sequence Events
7. Ⓑ Author's Purpose
8. Ⓒ Vocabulary
9. Ⓒ Cause and Effect
10. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
11. Answers will vary but should include information from the book to support the student's opinion, such as the following: *SpaceShipOne has the best design because Scaled Composites created a spaceship unlike anything ever imagined before. It didn't take off from a runway like an airplane or blast off on top of a rocket. Instead, it was carried high up into the sky under White Knight.*
12. Answers will vary but should include examples from the text, such as the following: *keeping expensive fuel use as low as possible, finding a way to keep it from getting too hot during re-entry, having adequate room inside to carry cargo or people, being reusable, having the ability to dock with a space station if necessary, having the ability to take off and land on Earth safely, having many windows for passengers to view Earth and space when applicable.*