

Name _____ Date _____

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

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| <p>1. Why did NASA end its space shuttle program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ There was little interest from the public for the program. Ⓑ Commercial companies took over the market. Ⓒ Private spaceships were more in demand. Ⓓ The tasks NASA was using shuttles for were too expensive. <p>2. What happened when <i>SpaceShipOne</i> won the Ansari-X Prize?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ Commercial companies entered the space business. Ⓑ Virgin Galactic partnered with Scaled Composites to make space tourism available to people all over the world. Ⓒ Only the United States and Soviet Union had the technology and resources for space travel. Ⓓ Private companies were building their own rockets for launching satellites into orbit. | <p>3. What was the author's main purpose for writing <i>Private Spaceships</i>?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ to explain to readers how NASA ended its space shuttle program Ⓑ to persuade readers to buy a ticket on a private spaceship Ⓒ to entertain readers with a story about a space traveler Ⓓ to inform readers about commercial spacecraft <p>4. What does the word commercial mean?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ⓐ a vehicle used for traveling in space Ⓑ the act of returning to Earth's atmosphere from space Ⓒ relating to buying and selling Ⓓ the detachable compartment on a spacecraft that holds people and their instruments |
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5. What is the main idea in the section titled "People Movers"?
 - Ⓐ Scientists conduct low-gravity experiments in space stations.
 - Ⓑ Commercial companies designed spacecraft to take people back and forth to space stations.
 - Ⓒ The ISS can be seen from Earth with the naked eye.
 - Ⓓ Private spaceships will allow anyone to travel to space.
6. How does the author feel about private spaceships?
 - Ⓐ They are only for the wealthy.
 - Ⓑ They are overtaking NASA.
 - Ⓒ They are a new era of space travel.
 - Ⓓ They are developing new habitats.
7. Which words help the reader understand the meaning of **spacecraft**?
 - Ⓐ space, shuttle, carried people
 - Ⓑ scientific experiments
 - Ⓒ launch, recover, repair
 - Ⓓ display, museums
8. What is the main similarity between the ISS and Bigelow habitats?
 - Ⓐ They are privately owned.
 - Ⓑ They are similar in size.
 - Ⓒ They are conducting experiments on board.
 - Ⓓ They are "balloon habitats."
9. Which of the following sentences informs?
 - Ⓐ In October 2014, one pilot died when *SpaceShipTwo* crashed in California during a test flight.
 - Ⓑ Are you ready for the commercial space age?
 - Ⓒ Wouldn't you love to see the Earth from space?
 - Ⓓ It was sad to see the shuttle program end.

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10. How did private companies send satellites to space before the 1980s?

- Ⓐ They used commercial launch vehicles.
- Ⓑ They were unable to send satellites into space.
- Ⓒ They used government launch vehicles.
- Ⓓ They partnered with NASA to build private spaceships.

11. Extended Response: Why does the author compare NASA to commercial companies?

12. Extended Response: How and why has space travel evolved?

Quick Check Answer Sheet

Private Spaceships

Main Comprehension Skill: Author's Purpose

1. Ⓓ Cause and Effect
2. Ⓑ Sequence Events
3. Ⓓ Author's Purpose
4. Ⓒ Vocabulary
5. Ⓑ Main Idea and Details
6. Ⓒ Author's Point of View
7. Ⓐ Vocabulary
8. Ⓑ Compare and Contrast
9. Ⓐ Author's Purpose
10. Ⓒ Main Idea and Details
11. Answers will vary but should include information from the book to support the author's purpose, such as the following: *The author compares NASA to commercial companies to show their influence and future in space travel. The author describes NASA's space shuttle program ending, as private spaceships rise. Space shuttles are too expensive for NASA, which would rather focus on space science and exploration. However, commercial companies can design spacecraft for tourism and profit.*
12. Answers may vary slightly but should include the following: *Space Travel used to be government funded and developed, but because it is so expensive, it has now moved into the commercial sector. Space travel also used to be only for discover new places, like Mars, but now it will be for passenger space travel as well.*