

Name _____

Space Exploration



Animals in Space

Did you know that animals have been part of space missions? Before humans went to space, scientists sent animals to learn how living things might survive there.

One of the first animals sent to space was a dog named Laika. In 1957, Laika traveled aboard a Soviet spacecraft called Sputnik 2. Laika's mission helped scientists understand the challenges of living in space.

In the early 1960s, NASA sent two chimpanzees, Ham and Enos, into space. Ham flew in 1961 and helped test the spacecraft's systems. Enos orbited Earth later that year. These missions showed that animals could live and work in space for short periods.

Scientists have also sent smaller animals like mice, frogs, and fish into space. These animals help researchers study how space travel affects bones, muscles, and other body systems. Even today, scientists continue to send animals to space to learn more about the effects of space travel on living creatures.

Thanks to these brave animals, scientists have learned a lot about space. Their missions have paved the way for human space exploration and taught us important lessons about life in space.

1. What is the main idea of the passage "Animals in Space"?

- A. Animals were sent to space to help scientists understand space travel.
- B. Animals can live in space for a long time.
- C. Only dogs and chimpanzees were sent to space.
- D. Spacecrafts are built specifically for animals.

2. What was the name of the dog sent into space in 1957?

- A. Ham
- B. Enos
- C. Sputnik
- D. Laika

3. In the passage, what does the word "mission" most likely mean?

- A. A journey with a special purpose
- B. A place where animals live
- C. A type of spacecraft
- D. A type of animal food

4. Why do scientists send animals into space even today?

- A. To find new homes for animals
- B. To learn more about how space affects living creatures
- C. To test new kinds of food for space
- D. To entertain astronauts