
BACK TO EARTH WITH A BUMP!

Reported by Amanda Kelper, Media Correspondent, London

Last week, British astronaut Tim Peake returned home from an incredible six month stay aboard the International Space Station (ISS), alongside his crewmates Yuri Malenchenko and Timothy Kopra. He is the first British astronaut to have lived on the ISS.

The men were launched into space on 15th December 2015. The mission involved conducting experiments, testing out new technology and inspiring the next generation of space travellers. Peake told reporters that the best part of his mission was a spacewalk where he had to make a repair on the space station.

Having circled the planet nearly 3,000 times, the crew returned home to Earth in a capsule, which reached speeds of up to 28,000 kilometres per hour. The touchdown was bumpy due to high winds, however the astronauts landed safely in Kazakhstan. They all returned in good health. Having arrived back on solid ground, the astronauts were pulled out of the capsule and carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk. Whilst sitting in their space suits, the men were checked over by medical staff. During these checks, Peake was asked how it felt to be home, 'The smells of Earth are so strong and it's wonderful to be back in the fresh air.'



Landing with a bump! Tim Peake lands safely in Kazakhstan.

Tim later flew from Kazakhstan to the headquarters of the European Space Agency in Germany where he is getting used to life back on Earth. Scientists are carrying out tests to see how his body has been affected by his time in space.

Peake recently commented on how he'd missed family and friends, and even the rain. Tim said he was now looking forward to spending some quality time with his family. When asked if he'd return to space in the future, he replied, '...in a heartbeat.'

Having been recognised by the Queen for his services to science, Tim is now a CMG, or companion of the order of St Michael and St George. He dedicated this award to his entire team.

Photo courtesy of NASA HQ PHOTO (@flickr.com) - granted under creative commons licence - attribution

Comprehension Questions

Answer questions in full sentences.

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?

2. Write down **one** job that Tim had to do on the mission.

3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?

4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?

5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?

6. Who wrote the article?

7. Give a reason why space travel is important.

Back To Earth With A Bump! **Answers**

1. How long had Peake been living on the ISS?

Tim Peake had been living on the ISS for six months.

2. Write down **one** job that Tim had to do on the mission.

Any one of; he conducted experiments, tested out new technology and did necessary repairs on the ISS.

3. Why were the astronauts carried out of the capsule?

They were carried as their leg muscles were too weak to walk.

4. What did Peake notice once he'd left the capsule?

He noticed the smells of Earth and the fresh air.

5. What was hard about being on the ISS for so long?

Tim said that being away from his family and friends for such a long time wasn't easy.

6. Who wrote the article?

The article was written by Amanda Kelper.

7. Give a reason why space travel is important.

Own answer, which may include to make new discoveries, to find out if there's life in other parts of the Solar System, to conduct important experiments in space, etc.