
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.

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Questions

1. How long did Tim Peake spend aboard the ISS? Tick **one**.

- six years
- four months
- six months
- two years

2. Who wrote this newspaper report?

3. What is ISS short for? Tick **one**.

- International Space Shuttle
- International Space Station
- Inspirational Space Station
- International Science Station

4. Explain what the purpose of the mission was. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

5. Where did the astronauts land? Tick **one**.

- Germany
- Russia
- Kazakhstan
- Great Britain

6. **Find** and **copy** a phrase that shows that Tim would **hurry back to space**.

7. What award has Tim been given by the Queen? Tick one.

- MCG
- GCM
- CGM
- CMG