

1. Publicity about the International Space Station (ISS) tends to overwhelm
2. readers with the impressive claims that it is the largest man-made object in
3. space, and that by the time its final component is attached later this year, it
4. will have required the collaboration of over 100,000 people around the world.
5. Often omitted, however, are the facts that it has been fraught with problems
6. since its inception and is already the most expensive object ever built, having
7. cost close to \$100 billion.

Further Questions

8. 1) What is the largest man-made object in space?

9. *The International Space Station is the largest man-made object in space*

10. 2) How many people worked on the International Space Station?

11. *Over 100,000 people around the world have collaborated on the space station.*

12. The first ISS components were launched in 1998, but the project's roots date to
13. 1984, when U.S. President Ronald Reagan announced plans for an
14. Earth-orbiting space station named Freedom. The years that followed were a
15. portent of what was to come for the ISS. The National Aeronautics and Space
16. Administration (NASA) repeatedly underestimated Freedom's development
17. costs, while at the same time Congress slashed NASA's budget, thereby
18. limiting the project's scope. Freedom never got off the ground, but in 1993,
19. President Bill Clinton enlisted the financial and technological help of 13
20. countries to design and building a successor, the ISS. The initial \$35 billion
21. price tag alienated many politicians, and in a public relations blitz, ISS
22. proponents made excessive claims about the supposed myriad benefits of
23. scientific research that would be performed on the station. The official ISS
24. press kit said such research could lead to "possible treatments for cancer,
25. diabetes, emphysema and immune system disorders," technologies to improve
26. computers and revolutionize industry, and innovative products that would
27. greatly enhance everyone's lives.



USE & PRINTING outside of eTOC are strictly PROHIBITED.

28. (32) What is suggested about the space station Freedom?

29. 1. The project ultimately had to be scrapped because Bill Clinton believed the
30. limited funds available should be redirected to the development of the ISS.

31. 2. Given the troubled state of the U.S. economy at the time, and the country's
32. lack of experience in space exploration, the project's goals were too ambitious.

33. 3. The troubles the project encountered should have served as a warning of
34. the difficulties involved in developing and building a space station.

35. 4. Proponents in the United States ignored requests made by space
36. researchers

37. from other countries, which resulted in those countries pulling out of the
38. project.

Further Questions

39. **3) Why did the plans for the Freedom fail?**

40. *NASA repeatedly underestimated Freedom's development costs, while at the*
41. *same time Congress slashed NASA's budget.*

42. **4) What did the official ISS press kit say the research on the ISS could lead to?**

43. *It said the research could lead to possible treatments for cancer, diabetes,*
44. *emphysema and immune system disorders, technologies to improve*
45. *computers and innovative products.*

46. In fact, according to ISS critics, the project resulted rather in a myriad of
47. problems. "It's always easier to draw these things than to build them," says
48. National Air and Space Museum historian Roger Launius. Ironically,
49. international cooperation contributed to the difficulties. Space station parts
50. were built in various countries and failed to fit precisely when assembled.
51. Electrical and life-sustaining systems malfunctioned, and computer systems
52. crashed. After the space shuttle Columbia exploded in 2003, no other country
53. could carry payload to the station. Proponents said such complications should
54. be expected, given the magnitude of a project stretching the limits of human
55. innovation. Critics actually agree with that assessment, but believe the real
56. problem is that the management of such projects needs to be forward-thinking
57. and long-term.

58. **(33) The author of the passage implies that backers of the ISS**

59. 1. Focused on issues which were important when the ISS was proposed but
60. made the mistake of continuing to promote them even when they were no
61. longer relevant.

62. 2. were encouraged by politicians to overemphasize the easier and less
63. expensive aspects of the program and to avoid discussing the technical
64. difficulties involved.

65. 3. used false computer data to convince scientists to conduct research on the
66. space station that they knew could more easily have been carried out on Earth.

67. 4. made claims which exaggerated the potential benefits of work that could be
68. done on the space station in order to persuade people to accept the cost of
69. building it.

Further Questions

70. **5) What happened because the space station parts were built in various**
71. **countries?**

72. *The station parts failed to fit precisely when assembled.*

73. **6) What happened when the space shuttle Columbia exploded in 2003?**

74. *No other country could carry payload to the station.*

75. As if to prove this point, the problems that crippled Freedom resurfaced with
76. the ISS. Costs ballooned to the current \$100 billion and the station's aim kept
77. changing with the political climate. Keith Cowing, founder of NASA Watch, a
78. website that provides commentary about the U.S. space program, notes that

79. this “makes it difficult to explain to Congress and the public what the purpose
80. of the ISS is.” All of this might not have mattered if tangible results had
81. materialized, but here, too, the ISS has fallen short. The little science
82. conducted on the ISS has focused on helping astronauts overcome the negative
83. health effects of long-term stay in space. Such experiments are geared towards
84. space exploration, not towards improving the lives of people on Earth.

85. **(34) What can be said of the setbacks experienced by the ISS?**

86. 1. They have been compounded by the fact that scientific research being
87. conducted on the station is unlikely to result in advancements that are
88. directly
89. applicable to society.

90. 2. They could have been avoided if scientists in the program had been
awarded

91. more funds to carry out experiments on the effect of long periods in space on
92. human health.

93. 3. They could not have been so significant if NASA had made efforts to
address

94. the concerns and suggestions of astronauts who had spent time working on the
95. station.

96. 4. They occurred because those involved in the station’s construction and
97. management focused on long-term objectives rather than setting more
98. immediate goals.

99. **Further Questions**

100. **7) What science has been conducted on the ISS?**

101. *The little science conducted on the ISS has focused on helping astronauts
102. overcome the negative health effects of long-term stay in space.*

103. **8) Do you think the ISS will be beneficial in the future?**

I think the ISS will be very beneficial, but it might take a long time.

104. 解答: (32) 3 (33) 4 (34) 1



Not for use outside Flex English Community