

Florida Launch Effects

Trace how space exploration shapes Florida's economy and culture.

SC.8.E.5.12 "Summarize the effects of space exploration on the economy and culture of Florida."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that show effects on Florida's economy, and circle details that show effects on Florida's culture. Number one detail that shows how a single space-related activity can affect both.

Florida and the Space Program

- ① For more than sixty years, launches from Florida's Space Coast have connected the state to the national space program. Kennedy Space Center and nearby Cape Canaveral need engineers, technicians, construction crews, security workers, teachers, and many other workers. Companies that build rockets, spacecraft parts, software, and research tools also work with the space program. These jobs bring wages into nearby communities. Workers spend money at stores, restaurants, and housing businesses, so space activity can support jobs beyond the launch site.
- ② Space exploration has also shaped Florida's culture. Families and visitors gather to watch launches, and museums and visitor centers share stories about missions and astronauts. Launch days can become shared local events, especially along the Space Coast. The state's link to space helps create a public identity connected to science and exploration. Schools, libraries, and community groups may offer space-themed activities that invite young people to imagine science and technology careers. Visitors often carry those experiences home, spreading Florida's space image beyond the state.
- ③ Space activity can affect both the economy and culture at the same time. A launch visitor may pay for a hotel room, a meal, or a tour, adding tourism money to local businesses. That visitor may also remember Florida as a place where people explore beyond Earth. In recent years, commercial space companies have increased launches and investment on the Space Coast. Their work can create opportunities, but communities must plan for changing traffic, housing needs, and demand for services as the industry grows.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Describe two ways space exploration supports Florida's economy in the first paragraph.

2 What are two ways space exploration shapes Florida's culture?

3 How can launch tourism affect both Florida's economy and culture?

4 Write one sentence that summarizes the overall effects of space exploration on Florida described in the passage.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A city council is deciding whether to support a new visitor center near the Space Coast. Write four sentences that recommend a decision, explain one economic benefit and one cultural effect, and name one challenge the council should plan for.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that show effects on Florida's economy, and circle details that show effects on Florida's culture. Number one detail that shows how a single space-related activity can affect both. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Describe two ways space exploration supports Florida's economy in the first paragraph.	It provides jobs at launch sites and space-related companies. Workers then spend wages at local stores, restaurants, and housing businesses.
2	What are two ways space exploration shapes Florida's culture?	Launches bring people together for shared events, and museums, schools, libraries, and community groups share space-related learning and activities.
3	How can launch tourism affect both Florida's economy and culture?	Visitors spend money at hotels, restaurants, and tours, helping businesses. They may also remember Florida as a place connected to exploring space.
4	Write one sentence that summarizes the overall effects of space exploration on Florida described in the passage.	Answers will vary. Space exploration creates jobs, investment, and tourism while shaping Florida's public identity, shared events, and interest in science.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The council should support the visitor center because launch visitors can spend money at hotels, restaurants, and tours. It could also strengthen Florida's space culture by giving families a place to learn about missions and astronauts. The council should plan for more traffic and demand for services when visitors arrive. With that planning, the center could help local businesses while building public interest in science.

Accept equivalent summaries that distinguish economic effects, such as jobs, investment, business spending, or tourism, from cultural effects, such as shared launch events, public identity, or interest in science. For the open response, accept either recommendation if it includes all required effects and a realistic planning challenge from the passage.