

Space Quest: Become a Kennedy Era Space Expert

Congratulations! You have completed your mission. Check your answers to see what rank you achieved.

- 1) How was Mercury astronaut Alan Shepard and the *Freedom 7* space capsule and recovered?

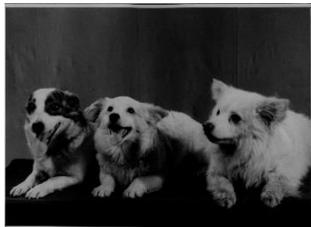


Image Credit: NASA

[A Marine helicopter](#) recovered Alan Shepard and his *Freedom 7* capsule in the Atlantic Ocean.

He was then brought to the U.S. Navy carrier *Lake Champlain*, where he took a congratulatory phone call from President Kennedy.

- 2) Who is Pushinka and why were her parents so important?



[Photograph](#) of (L-R): Strelka, Pushinka, and Pushok. Strelka and Pushok participated in the Soviet Union space program and are the parents of Pushinka, a gift to President John F. Kennedy and his family from Soviet Union Premier Nikita Khrushchev.

- 3) How long was the [Freedom 7](#) flight?



In a mission that lasted just over 15 minutes, Alan Shepard managed and monitored 27 events and communicated with Mercury Control 78 times.

- 4) Complete and memorize an excerpt from [Kennedy's 9/12/62 speech](#) at Rice University.



We choose to go to the **_Moon_**. We choose to go to the **_Moon_** in this decade and do the other things, not because they are **_easy_**, but because they are **_hard_**, because that goal will serve to organize and measure the **_best_** of our energies and skills, because that **_challenge_** is one that we are willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one which we intend to **_win_**, and the others, too.

What rank did you achieve?

1 correct answer = Test Pilot

2 correct answers = Astronaut Candidate

3 correct answers = Astronaut

4 correct answers = Commander