



Christina Koch Spends 328 Days Non-Stop in Space

Who is Christina Koch?

- Christina Koch has broken the record for longest time spent in space non-stop by a woman.
- She went into space in March 2019 and landed back on Earth in Kazakhstan on 6th February.

What's the longest time you've spent away from home? Well, one scientist has spent almost a year outside Earth!

Christina Koch has spent 328 days non-stop in space. It's the longest time a female astronaut has been in space.

That's almost a year without being on Earth! She spent such a long time there that she almost beat the overall world record. During this time, she floated around the **spacecraft** as there was no gravity keeping her on the ground.

Christina had to get used to living in space. She had to eat using the same spoon for the whole time. She also missed things that we take for granted on Earth. Christina said on NASA's website that she missed "the wind on my face" and "the feeling of raindrops".

Where did Christina spend all this time? She worked at the International Space Station (ISS). The ISS is a spacecraft that **orbits** the Earth. It's a place where astronauts carry out research about space.

Astronauts come from all over the world to work on the station. Since 2000, scientists have been working there continuously.

Christina arrived on the ISS in March 2019 and since then has become a **trailblazer**.

During her time there, she was part of the first all-woman spacewalk.

They had to go outside the ISS to fix a battery so the station could get enough power. She did

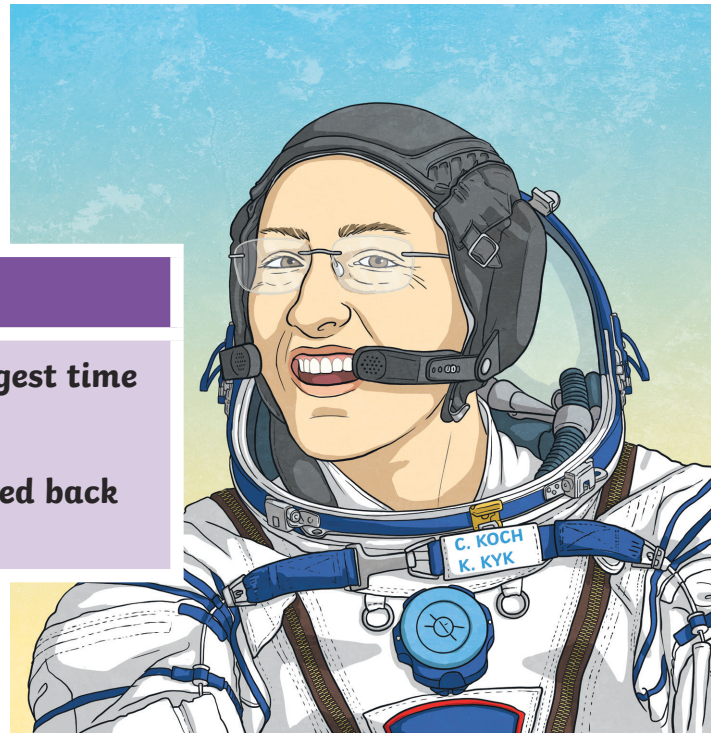


Illustration: Christina Koch.

the spacewalk with another American astronaut called Jessica Meir.

She also had to do some research for NASA. This research helped NASA to understand how life in space affects astronauts.

The news comes as people mark International Day of Women and Girls in Science on 11th February.

Groups, such as Teach First, want more girls to get into **STEM** subjects. Teach First said they did a survey and half the UK population couldn't name a female scientist.

NASA are doing more to give female astronauts opportunities. Their class of 2013 had four men and four women.

Glossary

spacecraft	A vehicle that travels in space.
orbits	To travel around something.
trailblazer	Someone who does something for the first time.
STEM	Science, technology, engineering and maths.

Questions

1. 'She also missed things that we take for granted on Earth.'
The phrase 'take for granted' suggests that...

- these things aren't that remarkable on Earth.
- they're really special.
- the weather is boring.
- living in space is more enjoyable than on Earth.

2. Find and copy three facts about the International Space Station.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. 'Since 2000, scientists have been working there continuously.'
Tick the word that means the same as 'continuously'.

- breakthrough
- broken
- helpfully
- non-stop

4. Christina is a trailblazer. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows this.

5. What do you think teachers will do after reading this story?

6. What is the most important information of this story?

Answers

1. 'She also missed things that we take for granted on Earth.'
The phrase 'take for granted' suggests that...

- these things aren't that remarkable on Earth.**
- they're really special.
- the weather is boring.
- living in space is more enjoyable than on Earth.

2. Find and copy three facts about the International Space Station.

Accept any three from the following: The ISS is a spacecraft that orbits the Earth. It's a place where astronauts carry out research about space. Astronauts come from all over the world to work on the station. Since 2000, scientists have been working there continuously.

3. 'Since 2000, scientists have been working there continuously.'
Tick the word that means the same as 'continuously'.

- breakthrough
- broken
- helpfully
- non-stop**

4. Christina is a trailblazer. Find and copy a piece of evidence that shows this.

Accept any piece of evidence that shows she was a trailblazer, e.g. She was part of the first all-woman spacewalk.

5. What do you think teachers will do after reading this story?

Accept any answer which refers to the story, e.g. I think teachers will tell children about other female scientists because a survey shows half the people in the UK couldn't name one.

6. What is the most important information of this story?

Christina Koch has spent 328 days non-stop in space. It's the longest time a female astronaut has been in space.