

[Read the following text:](#)

Israeli Astronaut Stibbe

Israeli Eytan Stibbe and three other astronauts landed off the Florida coast after spending two weeks on the International Space Station. After a heart stopping descent, a SpaceX Dragon capsule carrying the Axiom-1 crew, floated down to the Atlantic Ocean on four huge parachutes. As a recovery vessel made its way to the capsule, they called it the “toasted marshmallow” because of the scorch marks on it caused by re-entering the atmosphere at 28,000 km/h per hour.

President Isaac Herzog congratulated Stibbe upon his return via Twitter. He wrote; “Welcome back to Earth, Israeli astronaut Eytan Stibbe! One small step for man, one giant leap for the State of Israel and mankind’s space mission.”

Stibbe and his crew members each paid \$55 million for a seat on the Dragon capsule.

It blasted off on April 8 and although they were originally scheduled to spend only eight days on the space station, bad weather forced repeated delays and the crew spent 17 days in orbit, 15 of those on the ISS.

Stibbe is the second Israeli astronaut. The first, Ilan Ramon, was killed in 2003 when the Space Shuttle Columbia disintegrated upon reentry into the atmosphere.

Members of the Ramon family were there to see Stibbe take off in Orlando. Stibbe took the surviving pages from Ramon’s space diary, as well as mementos from his children. He even celebrated Passover on the station with matzah that he brought and gefilte fish offered by the Russian astronauts onboard.

This mission is especially important because an Israeli was on board the first space shuttle not owned by any government. It marks a turning point in NASA's goal to commercialize the region of space called low Earth orbit. Axiom, the company that made this all happen, is very clear that although there are flights to space all the time now, it is only for research, not tourism.

On board the ISS, which orbits 400 kilometers above sea level, there are many research projects. For example: an MIT technology demonstration of smart tiles that form a robotic swarm and self-assemble into space architecture, and the use of cancer stem cells to grow mini tumors in order to watch how they grow in a quick aging environment like space to identify early changes in those tumors and to help us treat them down here on Earth.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. How many crew members were on the SpaceX Dragon capsule?

- A. 3
- B. 4
- C. 5

2. What was the nickname for the SpaceX Dragon capsule?

- A. toasted marshmallow
- B. Axiom-1
- C. the Atlantic Ocean

3. How much money did the crew pay for the flight?

- A. \$13.75 million
- B. \$220 million
- C. \$55 million

4. Why did Stibbe and his crew spend 17 days in orbit?

- A. Because the weather was bad.
- B. Because they paid enough money for the flight.
- C. Because they visited the International Space Station.

5. Whom did Stibbe celebrate Passover with?

- A. Russian astronauts.
- B. Members of the Ramon family.
- C. The crew members of the ISS.

6. What is NASA's goal?

- A. To mark a turning point.
- B. To bring to space the first space shuttle not owned by any government.
- C. To commercialize the region of space called low Earth orbit.

7. What can the smart tiles do?

- A. self-assemble
- B. grow tumors
- C. be treated

Vocabulary

1. Which word in paragraph one means "moving down"?

- A. re-entering
- B. vessel
- C. descent

2. When you congratulate a friend, you say _____.

- A. "Good luck!"

- B. "Call me back!"
- C. "Be careful!"

3. What is another word for "crew"?

- A. team
- B. astronauts
- C. mission

4. What is the opposite of "to take off"?

- A. to take down
- B. to land
- C. to celebrate

5. Which word in paragraph five means "area"?

- A. company
- B. orbit
- C. region

Grammar

1. Rewrite the following sentences in the PASSIVE VOICE:

- A. They called the recovery vessel a "toasted marshmallow".
- B. The president wrote a message on Twitter.
- C. The president welcomed them to Earth.
- D. Every crew member paid \$55 million for a seat on the Dragon capsule.
- E. The bad weather forced them to delay the take off.

F. Eytan Stibbe invited members of the Ramon family to see him take off.

G. Stibbe took the surviving pages from Ramon's space diary.

H. Stibbe celebrated Passover on the space station.

Answers:

A. The recovery vessel was called a "toasted marshmallow".

B. A message was written on Twitter by the president.

C. They were welcomed to Earth by the president.

D. \$55 million were paid by every crew member for a seat on the Dragon capsule.

E. They were forced to delay the take off because of the bad weather.

F. Members of the Ramon family were invited by Eytan Stibbe to see him take off.

G. The surviving pages from Ramon's space diary were taken by Stibbe.

H. Passover was celebrated by Stibbe on the space station.

2. What is the PAST FORM of the following verbs?

A. land

B. float

C. say

- D. grow
- E. make
- F. congratulate
- G. happen
- H. take off

Answers:

- A. landed
- B. floated
- C. said
- D. grew
- E. made
- F. congratulated
- G. happened
- H. took off