

Monument to the Conquerors of Space



1. The monument 1) _____ (to locate) outside the main entry to today's Exhibition of Achievements of the National Economy (VDNKh), in the northeastern part of Moscow, near Prospect Mira ("Peace Avenue"). The easiest access is from the VDNKh subway station. Since the 1960s, this part of Moscow in general has had a high concentration of space-themed sights and names: besides the monument and the museum under it, the grand "Cosmos" pavilion in the Exhibition Centre displayed many artifacts of the Soviet space program. Many streets in the area have been named after the precursors of the space program (Nikolai Kibalchich, Friedrich Zander, Yuri Kondratyuk) and its participants (Sergey Korolyov).

2. The choice of this part of Moscow for space-related names and monuments may have been inspired by the fact that Prospect Mira runs toward the north-eastern suburbs of Moscow, where, in Korolyov City much of the space program was based. Korolyov himself lived in a house within a few blocks from the monument, which 2) _____ now (to preserve) as the Korolyov Memorial Museum.

3. The main part of the monument 3) _____ a giant obelisk (to top) by a rocket and resembling in shape the exhaust plume of the rocket. It is 107 meters (350 feet) tall and, on Korolyov's suggestion, covered with titanium cladding. A statue of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, the precursor of astronautics, is located in front of the obelisk.

4. The monument to Konstantin Tsiolkovsky in downtown Borovsk, designed by Sergey Bychkov, contains a nearly exact scale replica of the Conquerors of Space "rocket needle" and a whimsical statue of Tsiolkovsky gazing into the skies (and wearing valenki boots). It was 4) _____ in 2007 (to unveil). A copy of this statue (but not the "rocket needle") is installed at the Sir Thomas Brisbane Planetarium. A copy 5) _____ also _____ (to exhibit) in the park of the United Nations Office in Geneva, a gift donated by the USSR and designed by the architect Alexander Koltchin and sculptor Yuri Neroda.

Reading comprehension. While – reading tasks

Ex.6 Read the text and match the headings (A-E) to the paragraphs 1-4, one heading is extra.

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------|
| A | Description of the monument | Text 1 |
| B | Description of the opening ceremony | Text 2 |
| C | Names related to space | Text 3 |
| D | Replica of the monument | Text 4 |
| E | Location of the monument | |

Ex.7 Grammar task. Read the third passage of the text and put the verbs in the correct Past Simple (Active or Passive form).

Ex. 8 Circle the correct words to make TRUE sentences.

- 1) *The easiest/ the most nearest* access to the monument is from the VDNKh subway station.
- 2) Prospect Mira runs toward the *north-eastern/ north-western* suburbs of Moscow.
- 3) A statue of Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, the precursor of astronautics, is located *in front of/near* the obelisk.
- 4) The Exhibition Centre displayed many artifacts of the *Soviet / American* space program.

Ex. 9 Read the text again. What do these numbers stand for?

1	2007	
2	107	
3	1960s	
4	350	

After – reading tasks

Ex. 10 Fill in the III column of the KWL chart. What have you learned?

Check up your predictions about the contents of the text.

If you were the teacher and you wanted to test your students on this text, what would you ask?

Ex.11 *Project Work* “Space monuments in the Place Where I Live”

Are there any space monuments in the place where you live? Write a passage about it, don't forget to mention (you can adjust the options to the information you have). Make a poster about the monument. Make photos and use them in your poster.

- location of the monument
- why it was constructed
- description of the monument, architect (s)
- description of the opening ceremony
- renovations of the monument
- other (your ideas)