

1. Complete the passage with words from the box.

explore

satellites

exploration

orbit

evidence

fly

further

take-off

unmanned

dreamed

Space (1) _____ is sending people or machines into space to visit other planets and objects in space.

Mankind has (2) _____ of visiting the stars for hundreds of years, but it wasn't until 1969 that the first person walked on the Moon. Since the first person walked on the Moon, hundreds of (3) _____ have been launched into orbit around the earth, and hundreds of people have been into space on lots of different types of spacecraft. We have also sent machines to investigate objects that are (4) _____ away in the Solar System.

Apart from the Moon, the most popular place to send (5) _____ space expeditions is to Mars. Since the year 2000, there have been 10 unmanned expeditions to Mars, including putting spacecraft into (6) _____ around Mars and landing machines called rovers to (7) _____ the surface. NASA sent the rover Curiosity to Mars in 2012 to look for (8) _____ of life. They haven't found it yet, but they are going to keep on looking!

Now private companies are starting to (9) _____ into space too. Virgin Galactic sells tickets for a short trip into space for £130,000! Passengers won't go high enough to go into orbit, but they will spend about six minutes in space. The whole trip will take two and a half hours from (10) _____ to landing.