

## Survey question wording and topline

**2023 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL  
WAVE 128 – SCIENCE TOPLINE  
May 30-June 4, 2023  
N=10,329**

### OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

On a different topic...

#### ASK ALL:

FUTSPACE

Do you think each of the following things will or will not happen in the next 50 years, that is, before the year 2073? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<u>Will definitely happen</u>	<u>Will probably happen</u>	<u>Will probably not happen</u>	<u>Will definitely not happen</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. People will routinely travel in space as tourists May 30-Jun 4, 2023	10	45	36	8	1
b. People will build colonies that can be lived in for long periods of time on other planets May 30-Jun 4, 2023	6	28	47	17	1
c. Debris in space from rockets, satellites and other human-made objects will be a major problem May 30-Jun 4, 2023	19	50	26	4	1
d. The U.S. military will fight against other nations in space May 30-Jun 4, 2023	8	36	43	11	2
e. Intelligent life will be discovered on another planet May 30-Jun 4, 2023	9	32	43	15	1

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:****ASK ALL:****FUTURE**

Do you think each of the following things will or will not happen in the next 50 years, that is, before the year 2068? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	<i>Will definitely happen</i>	<i>Will probably happen</i>	<i>Will probably not happen</i>	<i>Will definitely not happen</i>	<i>No answer</i>
a. <i>People will routinely travel in space as tourists</i> Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	9	42	41	9	<1
b. <i>People will build colonies that can be lived in for long periods of time on other planets<sup>2</sup></i> Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	5	28	50	18	1

**ASK ALL:****SPACE1**

In the past 12 months, how much, if anything, have you heard or read about NASA, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	11	56	33	<1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	10	55	35	<1

<sup>2</sup> A 2014 Pew Research Center telephone survey asked "How likely to do you think it is that humans will build colonies on another planet that can be lived in for long periods" in the next 50 years? 5% said this will definitely happen, 28% said this will probably happen, 39% said this will probably not happen, 25% said this will definitely not happen, and 3% did not know.

**ASK ALL:**

SPACE3

How would you rate each of the following priorities for NASA's space efforts?

**[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Should be a top <u>priority</u>	Should be an important but lower <u>priority</u>	Should not be too <u>important</u>	Should not be <u>done</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Searching for life and planets that could support life					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	16	44	31	8	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	31	42	20	7	1
b. Searching for raw materials and natural resources that could be used on Earth					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	29	46	18	6	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	34	43	16	5	<1
c. Conducting basic scientific research to increase knowledge and understanding of space					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	40	45	10	2	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	47	40	10	2	1
d. Developing technologies that could be adapted for uses other than space exploration					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	35	48	13	3	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	41	44	11	3	1
e. Monitoring asteroids and other objects that could potentially hit the Earth					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	60	30	7	2	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	62	29	7	2	1
f. Monitoring key parts of the Earth's climate system					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	50	34	11	4	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	63	25	7	3	1
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY</b>					
<b>[N=5,148]:</b>					
g. Sending human astronauts to explore the moon					
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	12	45	34	7	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	13	42	38	6	<1

**SPACE3 CONTINUED ...**

		Should be a top <u>priority</u>	Should be an important but lower <u>priority</u>	Should not be too <u>important</u>	Should not be <u>done</u>	<u>No answer</u>
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY</b>						
<b>[N=5,181]:</b>						
h.	Sending human astronauts to explore Mars					
	May 30-Jun 4, 2023	11	45	36	8	1
	Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	18	45	30	7	<1
i.	Conducting scientific research on how space travel affects human health					
	May 30-Jun 4, 2023	29	45	20	4	1
	Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	38	41	17	3	1

**ASK ALL:**

SPACE6 In your view, do you think it is...

		ESSENTIAL that the United States continue to be a world leader in <u>space exploration</u>	NOT ESSENTIAL that the United States continue to be a world leader in space <u>exploration</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023		69	30	2
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018		72	27	1

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*Pew Research Center survey conducted by telephone: In your view, is it essential or not essential that the United States continue to be a world leader in space exploration?*

Jun 15-19

2011

58	<i>Essential</i>
38	<i>Not essential</i>
4	<i>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</i>

**ASK ALL:**

SPACE9 How much, if anything, have you heard or read about private companies, such as SpaceX, Blue Origin and Virgin Galactic, developing space exploration capabilities?

	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing at all</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	21	54	24	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	18	45	37	<1

**ASK ALL:**

SPACE10

Which statement comes closer to your views, even if neither is exactly right?

**[RANDOMIZE OPTIONS]**

	It is essential that NASA continue to be involved <u>in space exploration</u>	Private companies will ensure that enough progress is made in space exploration, even without NASA's <u>involvement</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	65	32	3
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	65	33	1

**ASK ALL:**

SPACE11

In the future, private companies expect to allow people to orbit the Earth in a spacecraft. How much, if at all, would you, personally, be interested in doing this?

	<u>Definitely interested</u>	<u>Probably interested</u>	<u>Probably NOT interested</u>	<u>Definitely NOT interested</u>	<u>No answer</u>
May 30-Jun 4, 2023	12	23	27	38	1
Mar 27-Apr 9, 2018	19	23	26	32	<1

**ASK ALL:**

SPACEPRIV

How good of a job do you think private space companies are doing at each of the following? **[RANDOMIZE ITEMS]**

	Doing a mostly good <u>job</u>	Doing a mostly bad <u>job</u>	<u>Not sure</u>	<u>No answer</u>
a. Building rockets and spacecraft that are safe and reliable May 30-Jun 4, 2023	48	12	39	1
b. Making important contributions to space exploration May 30-Jun 4, 2023	47	12	40	1
c. Limiting the debris from rockets, satellites and other human-made objects in space May 30-Jun 4, 2023	21	26	53	1
d. Opening up space travel to more people May 30-Jun 4, 2023	41	15	43	1

**ASK ALL:**

SPACEBEHAV Have you ever done any of the following activities outside of work? [**RANDOMIZE ITEMS**]

		Yes, have done this in the past 12 <u>months</u>	Yes, have done this but not in the past 12 <u>months</u>	No, have never done <u>this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
WATCH	Watched a space launch May 30-Jun 4, 2023	19	38	42	1
IMAGE	Looked at an image from a space telescope, such as the James Webb space telescope May 30-Jun 4, 2023	26	24	50	<1
MUS	Visited a planetarium or space museum May 30-Jun 4, 2023	11	60	28	1
EVENT	Seen an astronomical event such as an eclipse or meteor shower May 30-Jun 4, 2023	23	53	23	1

**OTHER QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**