

Friday. Check the answers and correct your work.

1) Who wrote the article and what is their job title?

Jonathan Amos, BBC Science Correspondent

2) How long has it been since a rocket has launched from USA? 9 years.

3) Name the pilots? Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken.

4) What does it mean by offering a 'taxi' service? NASA will pay to use the Space X rocket and not own them.

5) What is the name of the Space X craft? The Dragon Ship.

6) What time did it launch in the UK? 20.22 British Summer time. 8.22pm.

7) From what launch site did it take off? The famous 39A pad.

8) How long did it take to reach orbit? 2 ½ plus 6 minutes is 8 ½ minutes.

Text

SpaceX launch: Nasa astronauts begin historic mission on private spaceship

By Jonathan Amos BBC Science Correspondent

The private rocket company SpaceX has sent two Nasa astronauts into orbit.

It's the first time since the retirement of the shuttles nine years ago that an American crew has made the journey from US territory. Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken are not only trialling a new capsule system, they are also initiating a new business model for Nasa. The agency will no longer own the vehicles it uses but merely purchase the "taxi" service offered by SpaceX.

Hurley's and Behnken's Dragon ship left Earth atop its Falcon-9 rocket precisely on time - at 15:22 EDT (19:22 GMT / 20:22 BST). The Falcon soared off the spaceport's famous 39A pad to head northeast out over the Atlantic. After two-and-a-half minutes, the lower-stage of the vehicle had separated to return to a drone ship at sea. And after a further six minutes, the crew were safely inserted into orbit.