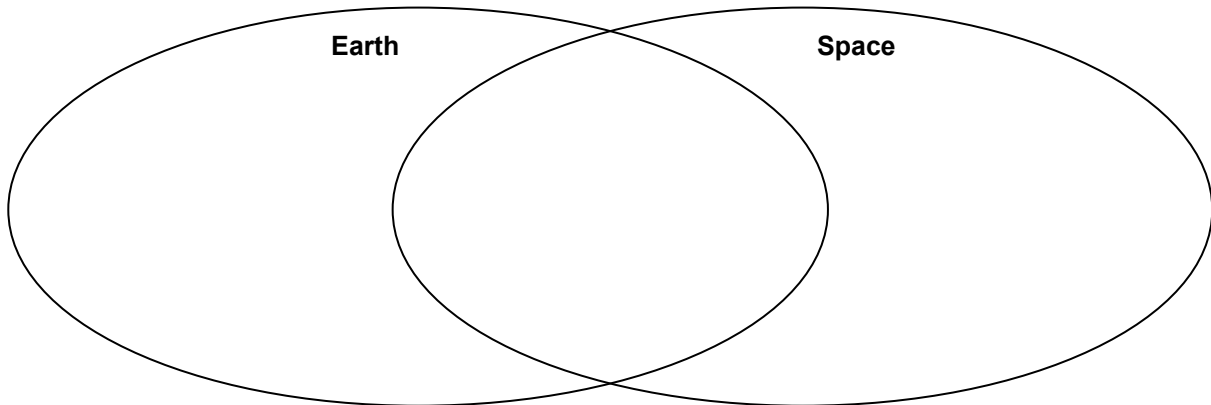


## 'A big responsibility': astronaut from UAE on longest ever Arab space mission

### Level 1: Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

- a. Think about life on Earth and in space. What's the same? What's different? Fill in the Venn diagram with a classmate.



#### 2 Key words

- a. Write the correct words from the wordpool to match the definitions below. Then, find and highlight them in the article to read them in context.

colleague

culture

mission

space

station

1. an important job with a purpose \_\_\_\_\_
2. the ways of doing things in a country or group \_\_\_\_\_
3. the area beyond Earth where all the other planets and stars are \_\_\_\_\_
4. a person you work with \_\_\_\_\_
5. a place where a particular type of work is done \_\_\_\_\_

float

record

region

respond

spacewalk

6. say or write an answer to something \_\_\_\_\_
7. move slowly through air or water \_\_\_\_\_
8. a large area of land or part of the world \_\_\_\_\_
9. the best result or the highest or lowest level that has ever been reached, especially in sports  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. the time an astronaut spends in space outside a spacecraft \_\_\_\_\_

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b. Use some of the key words above to complete these sentences. You may have to change their form.

1. At the meeting, I talked to my \_\_\_\_\_ from other offices.
2. We went to the science museum to learn more about \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Who holds the \_\_\_\_\_ for most days in space?
4. How should I \_\_\_\_\_ to his message?
5. The astronauts' \_\_\_\_\_ was to grow plants in space.
6. In many \_\_\_\_\_, you should take your shoes off before entering someone's home.

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### Level 1: Elementary

**Oliver Holmes**

**1 September, 2023**

- 1 The songs of Egyptian singer and songwriter Umm Kulthum have been played many times across the Arab world. Now, they are on the International Space Station.
- 2 Sultan al-Neyadi will make history after he finishes the longest space mission by an Arab. He said from space that he felt a responsibility to bring Arab culture to space.
- 3 "Everybody is watching us; everybody is excited about space," Neyadi said. "I heard a lot of my colleagues say: 'It's really nice to hear a different language on the station.'" Hundreds of astronauts have gone into space, and more than half have been American or Russian. There have been only six who are Arabs, now called "najmanauts" based on the Arabic word for star, "najm".
- 4 As well as science experiments, Neyadi has used his six-month trip to the ISS to bring space to the Arab world. The 42-year-old has posted videos in Arabic on social media about life in the space station. Neyadi said there is a huge audience in the Arab world "thirsty to learn more about space".
- 5 At the same time, Neyadi's photographs have given everyone a different view of Middle Eastern cities because famous places, like Baghdad and Beirut, are often seen in a negative way in the West.
- 6 "Many people were responding, and they were happy, and they were really excited to see a photo of their place from space. And many people wanted their hometowns or countries to be shown from space."
- 7 During his long trip, Neyadi filmed himself celebrating the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival. In another video, he floats through the station to one of Umm Kulthum's songs.
- 8 "This place is called the International Space Station," he said. "We have a large audience that needs to understand from both sides – an Arab astronaut living and working aboard the station, and then they learn about the culture we are from and the region."
- 9 The najmanaut studied at the University of Brighton and then joined the UAE Armed Forces. Since then, he has broken several records while in space. One is becoming the first Arab to do a spacewalk.
- 10 In May, two Saudi najmanauts, Rayyanah Barnawi – the first Arab woman in space – and Ali al-Qarni, joined Neyadi for an eight-day mission. It was the first time three Arabs were in space together at the same time.
- 11 Several months later, Neyadi was preparing for his return. "The first thing I will do is have a hot shower," he said, "and the second will be to have a real cup of coffee."

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#### 3 Comprehension check

a. Answer the questions using information from the article.

1. Who is Umm Kulthum?
2. Where is Sultan al-Neyadi?
3. What does he feel a responsibility to do?
4. Which two countries have sent the most people into space?
5. How many visitors to space have been Arabs?
6. How long is his space mission?
7. What has Neyadi posted on social media?
8. What "first" happened in May?
9. What is the first thing Neyadi says he will do when he gets home?

#### 4 Key language

a. Underline the time phrases in these sentences from the article. Add a comma after each introductory phrase.

1. At the same time Neyadi's photographs have given everyone a different view of Middle Eastern cities and famous places.
2. During his long trip Neyadi filmed himself celebrating the Muslim Eid al-Fitr festival.
3. In May two Saudi najmanauts joined Neyadi for an eight-day mission.
4. Several months later Neyadi was preparing for his return.

b. Rewrite the sentences with the time phrase at the end.

#### 5 Discussion

a. Discuss these statements.

- "We're all humans in space."
- "The International Space Station (ISS) is more international now."
- "Culture is what you take with you everywhere you go."

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### Level 1: Elementary

#### 6 In your own words

a. Do some research about the six Arab astronauts.

- What are their names?
- Which countries are they from?
- What years did their trips happen? Why?

b. Report your findings to the class and share your opinion about the future of space travel. You can use this chart to organise your findings.

	Name	Country	Year
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			