



## WHO ARE SPACEX

SpaceX is a private space company. They make space rockets and are partners with NASA. SpaceX was founded in 2002 by Elon Musk, their aim is to make space exploration cheaper by making reusable rockets. Their goal is to colonize Mars and other planets.

Did you know? They were the first private company to send astronauts to the International Space Station (ISS).

## FALCON 9



Falcon 9 is a partially reusable rocket. The first stage of the rocket is capable of re-entry and vertical landing. The first stage of the rocket has 9 Merlin engines. The second stage has 1 Merlin vacuum engine. SpaceX have had over 100 successful launches to date.

The Falcon 9 rockets are responsible for launching the Dragon capsule and the Starlink satellites into orbit.

Falcon 9 rockets are 70m high.

## DRAGON



The Dragon capsule is the first privately made space vehicle to take astronauts into space, specifically to the ISS (International Space Station). The Dragon has been used over 20 times to resupply the ISS. On the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2020, the Dragon was launched with its first crew: American astronauts Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken. This was the first launch from American soil since 2010.

## STARSHIP



Starship is the fully reusable spacecraft and second stage of the Starship system. The upper stage of Starship will be used to reach orbital velocity on launches from Earth and also will be used in outer space as a long duration spacecraft.

The Starship system is 120m, with Starship standing at 50m tall.



Space X is currently testing Starship's flight capabilities and landing technology. So far, they have had \*SN9 perform a successful take off and flip manoeuvre but it did not stick the landing. \*SN10 successfully launched, flipped and landed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021. Unfortunately however, it exploded a few minutes after landing.

\*SN – Starship number.

Space X are never put off by their failures as they know the only way to move forward is by learning from your mistakes.



FIND OUT MORE

SpaceX

[Full Replay: Starship SN10 Flight Test, Landing, and Post-Flight BOOM! - YouTube](#) (Watch from 10:24 for take off)

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EXAMPLE QUESTIONS:

1. What is the Falcon?
2. What were the Astronauts called that went on the Dragon to the ISS?
3. Falcon 9 rockets are responsible for launching what?
4. How many Merlin engines are on Falcon 9?
5. What does ISS stand for?