

BBC *WHY STARGAZING BOOSTS YOUR MENTAL HEALTH*

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Sky at Night

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8 facts that prove we're closer to finding E.T.



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All 33 Raptor engines on the Super Heavy booster started up and completed a full-duration burn during the ascent

Third time lucky for SpaceX

Starship makes it to space and the first milestone in plans to take humans to the Moon and Mars

SpaceX's Starship successfully reached orbit for the first time on 14 March, during the spacecraft's third test flight. It later broke up on re-entry.

At 13:25 GMT, the 122-metre-tall (400ft) spacecraft assembly launched from SpaceX's Starbase launch facility near Boca Chica Beach, Texas. Starship successfully separated from its booster stage, which crashed into the ocean, though ultimately SpaceX aims to reuse both the boosters and the main craft.

The 50-metre-tall (165ft) Starship craft

then flew in a sub-orbital trajectory, reaching an altitude of 234km (146 miles). During this flight, the spacecraft tested its payload doors, as well as the commands for a propellant transfer, needed for NASA's Artemis mission.

SpaceX was unable to relight the Raptor engines for the re-entry portion of the flight, resulting in the spacecraft breaking up on its return, around 49 minutes into the mission. Despite this, SpaceX deemed the test a success, having achieved all the goals set out.