

SHOULD WE EXPLORE SPACE?



T-minus 10, 9, 8... 3, 2, 1 and liftoff! Space exploration captures the imagination of many people. Today, rockets launch into space, satellites orbit Earth, and scientists study distant planets. Some believe we should continue space exploration because we might discover life on another planet. Imagine a world where humans and aliens are friends. Would we learn their language, try their food, or go to school together? But not everyone agrees that exploring space is worth the cost. After all, space missions cost millions of dollars, while problems like hunger, pollution, and poverty remain unsolved on Earth.

Discoveries in Space



In 2015, the New Horizons mission provided up close images of Pluto.

In 2018, scientists found signs that water could exist beneath Mars's surface.



Chang'e 6's 2025 mission revealed ancient volcanoes on the far side of the Moon.

- Would you want to travel to space?
- If you could go to any planet, which one would it be?

YES, WE SHOULD EXPLORE SPACE

Exploring space could be an amazing opportunity for humans. If aliens do exist, they could teach us many things, like a whole new language or a different way of living. Even if we don't find life, exploring space helps us learn more about what our solar system has to offer. Mars, for example, has conditions that are somewhat similar to Earth's, meaning we might be able to live on another planet one day, but only if we study it carefully first. Space exploration has also led to inventions that improve life on Earth, from GPS technology to better medical equipment. Every mission teaches us something new.

NO, WE SHOULD NOT EXPLORE SPACE

While space exploration is exciting, we should focus on caring for our home planet instead. It costs an enormous amount of money to go to space; in fact, NASA's budget in 2025 was \$25 billion! That money could be used to help people in need, protect the environment, or build better schools. Space exploration can also harm Earth's environment. Rockets release pollution, and falling space debris can endanger sea life when it lands in the ocean. It's important to think about the future, but taking care of the planet we already live on is the most important part of that future.