

# Space Travel Fact Sheet

Since the Cold War, scientists were able to do the impossible in regards to putting a man on the moon, or even landing a satellite on a comet. But with all of the great feats man has accomplished, we are in danger of potentially damaging our children's future. Due to the mistreatment of the environment the world is facing a very real threat of diminishing ice caps, a rising base temperature and a rising shore line. If the ice caps melt completely, the shore line will engulf most of our coastal cities escalating the threat of the environment to a threat to the national security of our country. Our population is growing exponentially and it is important to start looking towards the stars for potential new settlements. Here are important facts regarding the subject of space travel.

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## Agriculture and climate change

- <sup>1</sup>The Central Valley is going through a soil salinization process. Mirroring the Fertile Crescent in the Middle East, California has within the last few years started to build up salt in its soil due to over usage. Once lush and green, California is gradually becoming a desert and combined with the drought, it is on it's way to being inhospitable.
- <sup>1</sup>10 of the warmest years have occurred in the last 12 years.
- <sup>1</sup>There are 400 parts per million carbon emissions in the atmosphere as of 2014. In 1950, emissions were ranging around 320 parts per million. The increase can be directly contributed to the increase in production by the burning of fossil fuels.
- <sup>1</sup>Recently, President Obama has signed an international bill to cut down on emissions with China.
- <sup>1</sup>In the last century sea levels have risen by 17 centimeters, or 6 inches to Americans, in the last 100 years.
- <sup>1</sup>Greenland lost 36 to 60 miles of ice between the years of 2002 to 2006. Within four years the earth's temperature had risen to a point that it begun to melt.
- <sup>1</sup>Acidity in the oceans has risen by 30 percent shrinking the coral reefs around the world, reducing plant and wildlife.
- <sup>1</sup>With the ice melting it introduced cold water into warm water areas, causing drastic changes to plant and animal ecosystems.

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## Possible avenues in science

- <sup>3</sup>NASA has accidentally discovered a possible avenue in warp drive.
- It came as a surprise when they had found light traveling faster than what was originally thought possible.
- <sup>3</sup>Einstein's equation,  $E=mc^2$  explains that the speed of light can only go up to a certain speed, but after witnessing a beam of light traveling faster than originally predetermined, the conclusion was that the light beam was encompassed in a EM drive or Warp drive.

- <sup>4</sup>After more tests, we can be possibly be looking at faster than light space travel.
  - <sup>4</sup>We will no longer be confined to our own solar system. The dream of colonizing other planets is now a real possibility.
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## **Mars**

- <sup>6</sup>According to NASA, they have 4 main scientific goals in regards to its mission to Mars:
    - Determine if life ever arose on Mars.
    - Characterize the climate of Mars.
    - Characterize the geology of Mars.
    - Prepare for the human exploration of Mars
  - <sup>5</sup>Mars is half the size of the earth and equal to one tenth of its density.
  - <sup>5</sup>NASA believes that they will be able to get an astronaut in orbit around Mars by the year 2033.
  - <sup>5</sup>NASA also believes that they will land on Mars by 2039
  - <sup>5</sup>The problem with Mars is not getting to the planet, but getting back.
  - <sup>5</sup>Newer forms of fuel will have to be discovered in order to maintain a small ship.
  - <sup>5</sup>Colonization will take more than the projected time to get to and on the planet.
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## **References**

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4. <http://io9.com/5963263/how-nasa-will-build-its-very-first-warp-drive>
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6. <http://mars.nasa.gov/>