

SPEAKING

Let's talk about the universe!

LEVEL

Upper-Intermediate
(B2)

NUMBER

EN_B2_3054S

LANGUAGE

English

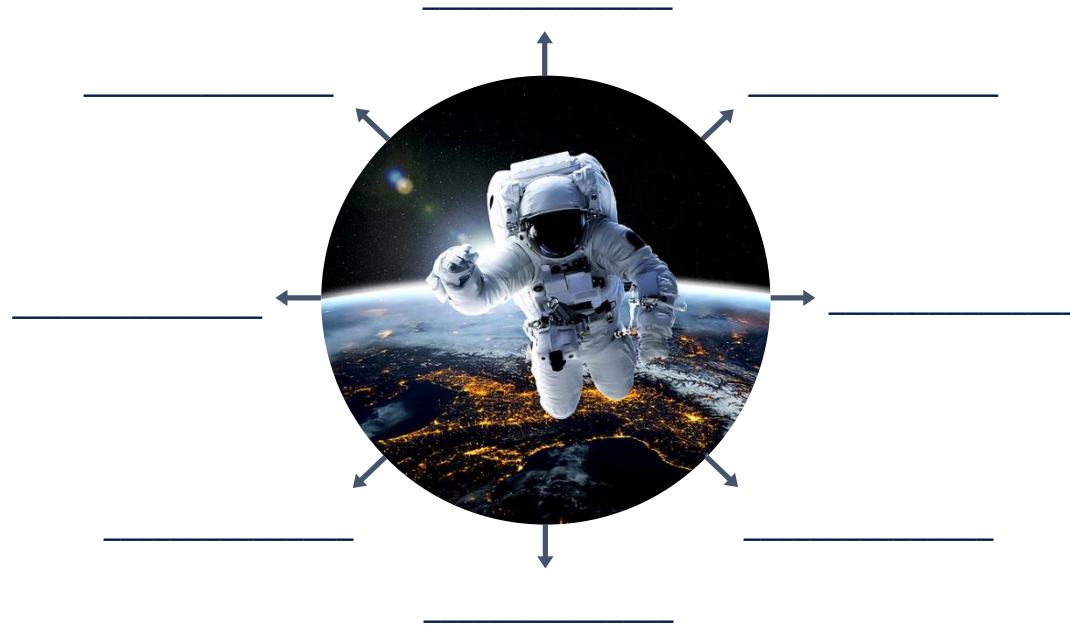


Learning outcomes

- I can express my opinion on space exploration, giving reasons for my views.
- I can discuss the establishment of colonies in space.

Warm-up

1. **Take 1 minute** to write as many words and phrases related to **space exploration** as you can.
2. **Share** your list with the class. Your teacher will add them to the mind map below.





Discuss

Read the statement below. **Respond** to the prompts in the red boxes. You can do this activity **in breakout rooms** or **as a class**.



Technological advances have allowed us to take significant steps into outer space. What once seemed impossible, now seems inevitable.

What does the phrase *technological advances* mean?

Can you think of some technologies that have enabled the exploration of space?

What do you think the second sentence above is referring to?



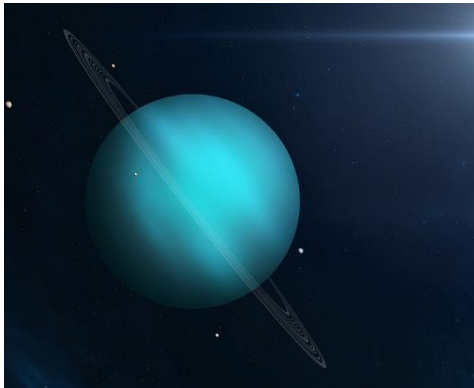
Describe the pictures

1. **Look** at the pictures below. **Write** 1-3 sentences describing what you see.
2. **Compare** your descriptions with your classmates.
3. **Discuss** the questions in the red box.



The first image shows...

It looks like...



- What does the word **habitable** mean?
- Why might it be **difficult** to live in one of these places?

Discuss

Read the statement below. **Respond** to the prompts in the red boxes.

“The chance to explore new planets offers a range of opportunities for humanity. We could potentially inhabit other planets...”

Are you **excited** about the prospect of humans inhabiting other planets?

Do you keep up to date with the **latest news** about space exploration?

Can you come up with some possible **downsides** to the recent drive to find other habitable planets?





Forming a community in space!

A group of five humans is being sent to a distant planet to establish a community. **Complete** the activity in the red box **in breakout rooms** or **as a class**.

Everything needed for basic survival is already set up, we just need to find the right people for the job!

Discuss: What sort of qualities might make for suitable candidates? What kind of professional background might they have? Consider not only individuals, but also group dynamics.



I guess it would be good to have at least one person who can...

The most important quality is probably...

If I were going into space, I'd want to be with people who...



Meet the space adventurers!

Write a brief profile of each of the chosen candidates for a magazine article, based on the class discussions on slide 7.



Jon



Lisa



Marcus



Sarah



Margaret

Lisa will be the leader of the team. Her background is in...

Last but not least, we have Sarah, a former...



Travel light...

You are one of the chosen candidates. You can bring **ONE** of each of the following items. Feel free to **ask** your classmates questions about their choices – maybe you'll find something in common!



film

book

song

item of clothing



Describing people

Read the short dialogue.



How are Lisa and John?
I heard they took the
next step and bought a
house!

I think they were a bit
starry-eyed before they
moved in together. You
really get to know a person
when you live with them!

How did Lisa and John feel before they
moved in together, according to the
second speaker? How are they feeling
now?

What do you think the word **starry-eyed**
means?



Star-gazing

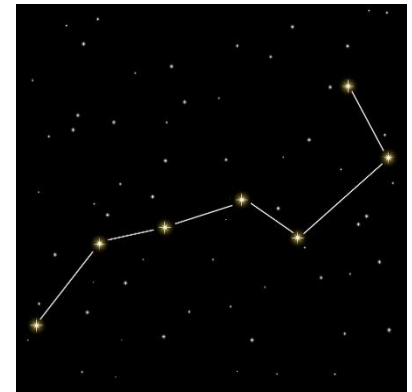


A group of stars is called a constellation. Some examples are the Big Dipper (also called the Plough) and Orion.

Have you heard of the constellations mentioned above?

What are the names of some constellations in your language?

Can you see the stars clearly where you live?



Research activity

Have you seen or read any of these classic English-language films and books about space? **Choose** one. Do a quick online search to find out information (e.g. Who wrote or directed it? What genre is it? What's the basic plot?) **Share** what you found out with your classmates.

1 **The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** (book)

2 **Interstellar** (film)

3 **The Martian** (book)

4 **Dune** (book)

5 **2001: a Space Odyssey** (film)





End of the lesson

Idiom

to be raring to go

Meaning: to be excited and enthusiastic about doing something

Example: My three-year-old just watched a film about kids in space and now she's raring to go. She doesn't understand that it's not like taking a trip to Disneyland!



Additional practice



Vocabulary review

Review these words and phrases from the chapter.



solar system

to cultivate

**groundbreaking
innovation**

countless

deep space

**technological
advances**

**to conduct
experiments**

to fuel speculation

to flourish

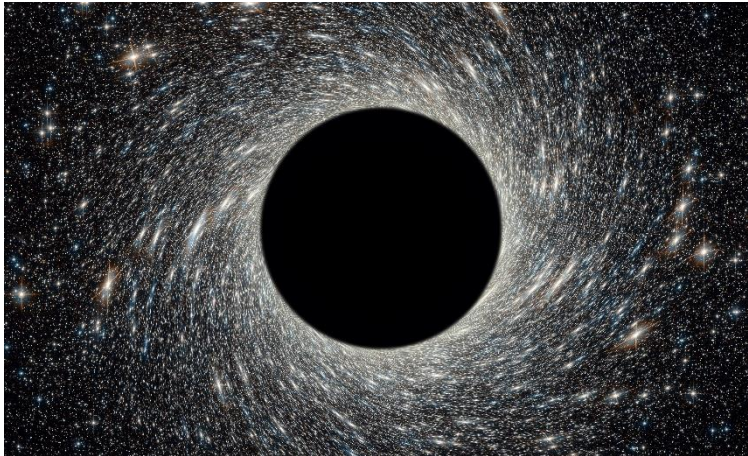
tenacity



Discuss

Review language from previous lessons in the chapter.

Do you believe that humans have the tenacity to establish a settlement on a distant planet?



What conditions would be necessary for humankind to flourish in outer space, do you think?



Discuss



How are commercial companies changing the possibilities of space exploration?

What do you think motivates space entrepreneurs who are pouring money into space exploration?



Answer key

P.10: RLL: starry-eyed: full of hope and optimism, seeing something in an unrealistic way



Summary

Space exploration:

- *technological advances; inevitable; habitable*
- **Technological advances** have made it almost **inevitable** that we will find life out there one day.
- No one is sure if any other planets are **habitable**.

Forming a community in space:

- *I guess it would be good to have at least one person who can...*
- *The most important quality is probably...*
- *If I were going into space, I'd want to be with people who...*

The stars:

- *starry eyed*
- *They were a bit **starry eyed** before they moved in together.*
- *constellation*
- *One of the most recognisable **constellations** is The Big Dipper.*



Vocabulary

technological advances

inevitable

habitable

starry eyed

constellation

