

SPACE AND EXPLORATION

Facts and events

- Artemis mission by the Nasa : the objective is an express manned flight (10 days) to collect resources on the Moon that will be used to better understand important aspects of the Moon. The goal is to train on the moon to do the same on mars. It will be the opportunity to send the first woman on the moon.
- Privatization : no longer government but private companies (billionaires).

Virgin Galactic (Richard Branson)	Blue Origin (Jeff Bezos)	Space X (Elon Musk)
Send people in space : space tourism for humanistic reasons (manned rocket, 19 minutes in the air)	Send people in space	Colonize Mars to save humanity from the extinction and mostly for escapism, adventure Get the public excited by space again

- New area of space exploration:

Positive	Negative
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Private is more efficient than public: it accelerates research, it's been a boost for technological advances (ex: Space X has developed a new kind of rocket: Falcon 9) because of the financial aspect (ex: the government has cut Nasa funding)- Symbols, dreams: bringing back hopes in space exploration (ex: Joe Biden said that SE is scientific but there is a symbolic aspect too)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Gap between poor and rich countries in the access to technology and space resources- Ego \neq public good- Very polluting

- Elon Musk: Time's person of the year "worst choice ever" say critics because of attitude of taxes (only 3%), playing down the Covid crisis. The problem is that he has a big influence (66 million followers on Twitter).
- No more frontier, no more unexplored zone : advance the frontier of science and provide a new perspective on humanity's place in the universe.
- The first space race was for military reasons and managed by governments. The second space race resulted in privatization, billionaires control now this sector. But the race is between billionaires, it's more to satisfy their ego than to discover space.

Problematics

Is the privatization of space exploration beneficial for the common good?
Why is space the final frontier? What does this mean for American people?

Vocabulary

A rocket : une fusée
A space buff : un fana de l'espace
The space age : l'ère spatiale
The space race : la course dans l'espace
A mission to Mars : une mission sur Mars
A manned/unmanned flight : un vol habité/inhabité
A crew : l'équipage
To launch : lancer
A rocket engine : un propulseur de fusée
To propel : propulser
To land : atterrir
Touchdown : atterrissage/amérissage/alunissage
In zero gravity : en apesanteur
To shoot for the moon : viser très haut