

Student Handout

“Why Do We Explore?”

Whether we know it or not, we are natural-born explorers. There are many reasons why we explore. From birth we learn about life and how it works by exploring. No one can be satisfied for very long without exploring. Whether you are talking to someone next to you or looking around the room, you are exploring!

DIRECTIONS:

1. You and your partners are constructing the EXPLORE poster on the wall.
2. Each team has a paragraph indicating one of the seven different reasons why humans explore.
3. At the beginning of the paragraph there is a letter designated for your team. You will use this letter to start a sentence that summarizes your team’s reason for exploring.
4. Think of a sentence that describes the ideas from your paragraph. It has to begin with the letter listed on the top of your paragraph. Write the sentence on the sentence strip.
5. Make an illustration to go with your sentence and put it on the sentence strip. Be creative in your use of color.
6. Each student should make a copy of your team’s sentence and illustration on the paper provided.
7. Place your team’s sentence and illustration on the poster and discuss them with the class.
8. Copy each team’s sentence and illustration as they, in turn, add them to the poster.

Student Handout

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "E"

People are curious about everything. We learn something new every day. If you get bored, you automatically look for something to do. That is the way we are. We like to learn new things. We also like to understand things and how they work. From the time you were born, you have been finding out how things work by exploring them. Curiosity makes us Explorers.

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "X"

Exploration looks ahead, not behind. We do not want to be stuck in the past. We want to move ahead. Exploration gives us the sense that anything is possible. Exploration leads to knowledge and understanding, and that means you make the world a better place as you explore. People have always tried to leave the world a better place for future generations. Exploration is one way we can do that. It is a gift that people of the past give people of the future. (You may use X or some other letter to start your sentence.)

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "P"

Leaders in deep ocean exploration are leaders in the world. The countries that join together to go to the deep ocean will find new ways of working together and sharing their successes. Working together on major projects in the deep ocean environment will help make nations on Earth more peaceful. Anytime you have to work with others, you learn about them and yourself. Working together with common goals helps people understand each other. It is very hard to go to war with people you understand. Working together also makes us more creative.

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "L"

New places can be helpful to us because they have raw materials and natural resources. If we are going to explore the deep ocean, it can help our economy. Deep ocean exploration creates jobs and technology that make our world better. The deep ocean might have products and materials that are not available on land. We could also look for new; cleaner energy sources in the deep ocean that might help protect our environment.

Student Handout

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "O"

Exploration helps us understand our place in the universe. What might we find out about the deep ocean that helps us better understand life on land? If there are as yet undiscovered species, what can we learn from them? What useful products might they yield? Might living under the ocean become necessary at some time in the future? What we find in the deep ocean could be the greatest discovery of all time.

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "R"

Exploration opens up new places. Our country was once called the "New World" because the people of Europe discovered it when they thought only an ocean existed here. Europeans moved to the "New World," called it America, and we became our own country. We know no new lands exist on Earth to be discovered, so we look to the deep ocean.

YOUR TEAM HAS THE LETTER "E"

We love adventure and when we explore new places, it is the best kind of adventure. Landing on the floor of the deep ocean in a video game is not nearly as exciting as going there in person. Americans love adventure. From the time of the first colonies in America, we have spread across this great land and have loved the fun of discovering new things. We have landed on our own Moon and sent spacecraft to the far reaches of the solar system. When humans explore, we make the universe our classroom for learning.

Adapted from:

Destination: Mars 10/97 NASA JSC