

# Topic: Space exploration is a waste of time and money

**Introduction:** Since the first explorations in space in the 1950s, many countries in the world have spent huge amounts of money to fund their space programmes, notably the USA and Russia. Man has landed on the moon, sent missions to Mars and has now begun to explore beyond our own universe.

Many argue that this allows us to expand our knowledge massively, including understanding how life began and improving our scientific understanding, whilst communication has developed inordinately through satellite use. Indeed, some see space exploration as the pinnacle of human achievement.

However, many ask whether it's right that we spend so much money on space exploration when there are so many issues on Earth that need dealing with and that the amount of time, money and expertise would be far better spent on the problems that people face here. Others have argued that it is extremely dangerous as it encourages rivalry and hostility, using technology that could be disastrous if used incorrectly or in the wrong hands.

## Essential reading:

- <http://debatewise.org/debates/137-space-exploration-is-a-waste-of-money/>
- <http://www.statesman.com/news/news/opinion/weinberg-ending-manned-space-flight-is-the-right-t/nRkLm/>
- [http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/whyweexplore/why\\_we\\_explore\\_main.html#.VK0aHiusVuI](http://www.nasa.gov/exploration/whyweexplore/why_we_explore_main.html#.VK0aHiusVuI)

Agree (for)	Disagree (against)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/nov/17/philae-comet-landing-planet-scientists-extinction">http://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2014/nov/17/philae-comet-landing-planet-scientists-extinction</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/4807506/The-space-race-is-a-pointless-waste-of-money.html">http://www.telegraph.co.uk/comment/personal-view/4807506/The-space-race-is-a-pointless-waste-of-money.html</a></li><li>• <a href="http://edquestscience.com/pdf/ES-SE-4notes.pdf">http://edquestscience.com/pdf/ES-SE-4notes.pdf</a></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/10-reasons-we-should-be-exploring-space/17101#.WTkgcOvyvcs">http://www.spiked-online.com/newsite/article/10-reasons-we-should-be-exploring-space/17101#.WTkgcOvyvcs</a></li><li>• <a href="http://science.howstuffworks.com/10-reasons-space-exploration-matters.htm">http://science.howstuffworks.com/10-reasons-space-exploration-matters.htm</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.space.com/11272-nasa-space-technology-spinoffs.html">http://www.space.com/11272-nasa-space-technology-spinoffs.html</a> <a href="http://edition.cnn.com/2014/11/14/opinion/seymour-space-love-hate/">http://edition.cnn.com/2014/11/14/opinion/seymour-space-love-hate/</a></li><li>• <a href="http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/rosetta-mission-represents-the-very-best-side-of-human-nature-9863269.html?origin=internalSearch">http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/comment/rosetta-mission-represents-the-very-best-side-of-human-nature-9863269.html?origin=internalSearch</a> <a href="https://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/jan/05/africa-moon-mission-africa2moon-crowdfunding">https://www.theguardian.com/science/2015/jan/05/africa-moon-mission-africa2moon-crowdfunding</a></li></ul>

What are you arguing:	Facts or statistics
Point 1:	
Point 2:	
Point 3:	
Point 4:	