



# **SMART** **JUNIORS 2**

**Moon Exploration or Earth  
Preservation: A Dilemma**

**Lesson 20**

**Read for Main Idea**



# PREPARE TO READ

## Academic Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition of the highlighted words.

1. Sarah had a **dilemma** when she couldn't decide between buying a laptop or a smartphone.



*n.* an important task or job that usually involves travel

2. Their **mission** was to clean up the park and make it a better place for everyone.



*v.* to follow or work towards a goal, dream, or ambition

3. Tommy wants to **pursue** his dream of becoming an astronaut, so he reads articles about outer space every day.



*n.* a situation where you have difficulty choosing between two or more options

## Academic Vocabulary

Read the sentences. Choose the correct definition of the highlighted words.

4. One major **consequence** of global warming is extreme weather events.



*n.* a result or outcome that happens as a result of an action

5. People are **investing** in solar panels to reduce pollution and fight climate change.



*n.* anything good or positive that comes from an action or situation

6. Planting more trees can have a great **benefit** for the environment because it provides cleaner air for us to breathe.



*v.* to use money, resources, or effort into something in order to get a good result

## Think Before Reading

Give one advantage for each side. Which is more important to you?



### Earth Preservation

Advantage: \_\_\_\_\_



### Moon Exploration

Advantage: \_\_\_\_\_



## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma

Humans have always been curious about the unknown, and space exploration is one of the most exciting ways to satisfy that curiosity. As of August 2023, four countries have successfully landed a spacecraft on the moon. These historic events have led to a number of scientific discoveries. However, space exploration is also a costly and complex activity. Although some people say we should keep sending people to the moon, others believe we should focus on solving the many problems facing Earth.

On the one hand, many people believe exploring the moon can lead to significant scientific discoveries that might benefit Earth, like new resources and technology. For example, during the Apollo missions, scientists found valuable minerals like helium-3 on the moon, which could change how we produce energy on Earth. Also, space tech developed for moon missions, like solar panels and water purifiers, can help with Earth's environmental issues. Additionally, space missions can also encourage young people to pursue exciting careers in space exploration as we've seen with astronauts like Neil Armstrong, whose historic moonwalk inspired a lot of people to become astronauts.

On the other hand, many people insist on focusing on our problems here on Earth first. Addressing Earth's problems is crucial for human survival. If we don't focus on finding solutions for climate change, severe consequences like intense weather events, droughts, and floods will endanger people's lives. They also argue that money spent on space exploration could be better used to improve the quality of life for everyone. For instance, investing in clean energy, education, and healthcare, leads to a better society.

In conclusion, both sides have their benefits. Exploring the moon offers exciting opportunities for science and inspiration, but it's also costly. On the flip side, addressing Earth's problems is important, given the challenges we face nowadays. In my view, we should strike a balance between moon exploration and addressing Earth's problems. While we can venture to the

### Predict From the Title

Look at **the title** of the essay and answer the questions.

1. What is the essay's title?
2. Based on the title, what will we know from the essay?

I think the essay is about...

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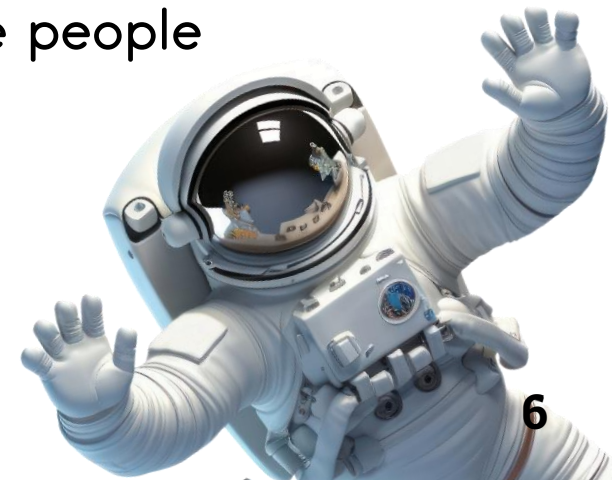
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- Listen and read the essay.

## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma

- ▶ Humans have always been curious about the unknown, and space exploration is one of the most exciting ways to satisfy that curiosity. As of August 2023, four countries have successfully landed a spacecraft on the moon. These historic events have led to a number of scientific discoveries. However, space exploration is also a costly and complex activity. Although some people say we should keep sending people to the moon, others believe we should focus on solving the many problems facing Earth.



## READ FOR MAIN IDEA

- ▶ On the one hand, many people believe exploring the moon can lead to significant scientific discoveries that might benefit Earth, like new resources and technology. For example, during the Apollo missions, scientists found valuable minerals like helium-3 on the moon, which could change how we produce energy on Earth. Also, space tech developed for moon missions, like solar panels and water purifiers, can help with Earth's environmental issues. Space **missions** can also encourage young people to **pursue** exciting careers in space exploration. We've seen astronauts like Neil Armstrong, whose historic moonwalk inspired a lot of people to become astronauts.





## READ FOR MAIN IDEA

- ▶ On the other hand, many people insist on focusing on our problems here on Earth first. Addressing Earth's problems is crucial for human survival. If we don't focus on finding solutions for climate change, severe **consequences** like intense weather conditions, droughts, and floods will endanger people's lives. They also argue that money spent on space exploration could be better used to improve the quality of life for everyone. For instance, **investing** in clean energy, education, and healthcare leads to a better society.





- ▶ In conclusion, both sides have their **benefits**. Exploring the moon offers exciting opportunities for science and inspiration, but it's also costly. On the flip side, addressing Earth's problems is important, given the challenges we face nowadays. In my view, we should strike a balance between moon exploration and addressing Earth's problems. While we can venture to the moon, we shouldn't forget about our planet's needs. If we prioritize both advancing our knowledge and making the world a better place, we could see significant improvements in our society.



## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma

Humans have always been curious about the unknown, and space exploration is one of the most exciting ways to satisfy that curiosity. As of August 2023, four countries have successfully landed a spacecraft on the moon. These historic events have led to a number of scientific discoveries. However, space exploration is also a costly and complex activity. Although some people say we should keep sending people to the moon, others believe we should focus on solving the many problems facing Earth.

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### The Objective

**What do you think is the purpose of the essay?**

- A** To encourage readers to support moon exploration over Earth preservation
- B** To present a balanced discussion between moon exploration and Earth preservation
- C** To compare the advantages of Earth preservation and the disadvantages of moon exploration

## Main Idea for Paragraphs



### Skim and underline.

1. Which sentence states that there are two opposite views on the topic?
2. What specific word(s) helped you identify this sentence?

### Skimming Strategy

Search for the sentence that mentions **two opposing opinions** about a specific topic.



## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma | Paragraph 1

Humans have always been curious about the unknown, and space exploration is one of the most exciting ways to satisfy that curiosity. As of August 2023, four countries have successfully landed a spacecraft on the moon. These historic events have led to a number of scientific discoveries. However, space exploration is also a costly and complex activity. Although some people say we should keep sending people to the moon, others believe we should focus on solving the many problems facing Earth.



## Main Idea for Paragraphs



### Skim and underline.

1. What side of the argument is being discussed in this paragraph?
2. What specific word(s) helped you identify this?

### Skimming Strategy

Look for a **cause-and-effect** relationship to understand which side is being discussed.



## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma | Paragraph 2

On the one hand, many people believe exploring the moon can lead to significant scientific discoveries that might benefit Earth, like new resources and technology. For example, during the Apollo missions, scientists found valuable minerals like helium-3 on the moon, which could change how we produce energy on Earth. Also, space tech developed for moon missions, like solar panels and water purifiers, can help with Earth's environmental issues. Space missions can also encourage young people to pursue exciting careers in space exploration. We've seen astronauts like Neil Armstrong, whose historic moonwalk inspired a lot of people to become astronauts.

## Main Idea for Paragraphs



### Skim and underline.

1. What side of the argument is being discussed in this paragraph?
2. What specific word(s) helped you identify this?

### Skimming Strategy

Look for a **cause-and-effect** relationship to understand which side is being discussed.



## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma | Paragraph 3

On the other hand, many people insist on focusing on our problems here on Earth first. Addressing Earth's problems is crucial for human survival. If we don't focus on finding solutions for climate change, severe consequences like intense weather events, droughts, and floods will endanger people's lives. They also argue that money spent on space exploration could be better used to improve the quality of life for everyone. For instance, investing in clean energy, education, and healthcare leads to a better society.

## Main Idea for Paragraphs



### Skim and underline.

1. What is the main purpose of this paragraph?
2. What is the author's opinion about the topic?

### Skimming Strategy

After the summary of the opposite viewpoints on the topic, look for the **author's personal opinion**.



## Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma | Paragraph 4

In conclusion, both sides have their benefits. Exploring the moon offers exciting opportunities for science and inspiration, but it's also costly. On the flip side, addressing Earth's problems is important, given the challenges we face nowadays. In my view, we should strike a balance between moon exploration and addressing Earth's problems. While we can venture to the moon, we shouldn't forget about our planet's needs. If we prioritize both advancing our knowledge and making the world a better place, we could see significant improvements in our society.





## Academic Vocabulary

dilemma

mission

pursue

consequence

invest

benefit

## Read for Main Idea

### SKIMMING STRATEGY

1. Search for the sentence that mentions **two opposing opinions** about a specific topic.
2. Look for a **cause-and-effect relationship** to understand which side is being discussed.
3. After the summary of the opposite viewpoints on the topic, look for the **author's personal opinion**.



A photograph of a space station in orbit over Earth, with a green diagonal overlay on the right side. The text 'WHAT'S NEXT...' is written in large, white, bold, sans-serif font with a green drop shadow. The background features a large orange circle on the left and several smaller orange and light green circles scattered across the green area.

# WHAT'S NEXT...

In the next lesson, we're going to read the essay "Moon Exploration or Earth Preservation: A Dilemma" in detail. See you next time!