

Jeff Bezos wants a trillion humans in solar system

25th December 2023



Just when demographers are ringing alarm bells about overpopulation, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos says we need to populate our solar system. Mr Bezos was asked for his thoughts on humanity living in outer space in a thousand years' time. He

replied: "I would love to see, you know, a trillion humans living in the solar system. If we had a trillion humans, we would have at any given time 1,000 Mozarts and 1,000 Einsteins....Space would be full of life and intelligence and energy." He added that he wants to help "build heavy infrastructure that will be used by the space entrepreneurs of future generations...so that ingenuity and imagination can really be unleashed".

Mr Bezos' thoughts are echoed by fellow multi-billionaire Elon Musk, owner of X (formerly known as Twitter). In 2021, he said of the human race: "We don't want to be one of those single-planet species; we want to be a multi-planet species." Earlier this year, Mr Musk warned that: "Population collapse due to low birth rates is a much bigger risk to civilization than global warming...mark these words." Mr Bezos conceives of people living in giant space stations. He said most inhabitants of these would visit Earth for vacations. He envisions our planet returning to its pristine environment, as factories would be built in space. He said they would exploit resources on the moon or on asteroids instead of using up Earth's.

Sources: yahoo.com / sciencealert.com / futurism.com

Writing

It's important to colonize space to protect the future of Earth. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

demographers / alarm bells / overpopulation / solar system / a trillion humans / space / billionaire / species / low birth rates / civilization / global warming / space stations

True / False

- 1) Bell-ringers are raising the alarm about overpopulation. T / F
- 2) Jeff Bezos gave his thoughts on humans living in inner space. T / F
- 3) Bezos said we could have 1,000 Einsteins if there were a trillion people. T / F
- 4) Bezos said there is too little energy in space to support a trillion people. T / F
- 5) Elon Musk said humans should only live on Earth. T / F
- 6) Mr Musk said too few people was a bigger problem than overpopulation. T / F
- 7) Mr Bezos can see people inhabiting huge space stations. T / F
- 8) Mr Bezos said there was a danger of asteroids destroying Earth. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. ringing | a. occupants |
| 2. populate | b. reiterated |
| 3. thoughts | c. set free |
| 4. entrepreneurs | d. foresees |
| 5. unleashed | e. assessment |
| 6. echoed | f. sounding |
| 7. risk | g. utilize |
| 8. inhabitants | h. business people |
| 9. envisions | i. threat |
| 10. exploit | j. inhabit |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What are the advantages of us being a multi-planet species?
- c) How worried are you about 'population collapse'?
- d) What would life be like on a space station?
- e) What might people do on an Earth vacation?
- f) Do you think Jeff Bezos' idea would help our planet?
- g) What three adjectives best describe this article?
- h) What questions would you like to ask Jeff Bezos about his vision?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 1. demographers are ringing alarm | a. environment |
| 2. at any | b. future generations |
| 3. he wants to help build heavy | c. multi-billionaire Elon Musk |
| 4. the space entrepreneurs of | d. be unleashed |
| 5. ingenuity and imagination can really | e. risk to civilization |
| 6. Bezos' thoughts are echoed by fellow | f. given time |
| 7. Population collapse due to | g. bells |
| 8. a much bigger | h. or on asteroids |
| 9. pristine | i. infrastructure |
| 10. exploit resources on the moon | j. low birth rates |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you know about the solar system?
- What do you think of overpopulation?
- What do you think of populating our solar system?
- What do you think of a trillion people living in space?
- What would the world be like with 1,000 Mozarts and Einsteins?
- Would you like to live in space?
- What will the future be like?
- How often do you unleash your imagination?

Spelling

- eehrgrsmodpa are ringing alarm bells
- we need to applauto our solar system
- his thoughts on imyauthn
- euterrepnesr of future generations
- nygeiintu and imagination
- really be euhandles
- one of those single-planet cpesie
- Bezos nseeiccov of people living
- bnaiitshtan of these would visit Earth
- returning to its nietpsir environment
- He said they would extlpio resources
- on the moon or on stisedaro

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. j	3. e	4. h	5. c
6. b	7. i	8. a	9. d	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Overpopulation

You think overpopulation is the biggest threat to civilization. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats will never materialize. Also, tell the others which is the remotest threat of these (and why): population collapse, A.I. or war.

Role B – Population Collapse

You think population collapse is the biggest threat to civilization. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats will never materialize. Also, tell the others which is the remotest threat of these (and why): overpopulation, A.I. or war.

Role C – A.I.

You think A.I. is the biggest threat to civilization. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats will never materialize. Also, tell the others which is the remotest threat of these (and why): population collapse, overpopulation or war.

Role D – War

You think war is the biggest threat to civilization. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their threats will never materialize. Also, tell the others which is the remotest threat of these (and why): population collapse, A.I. or overpopulation.

Speaking –

Rank these

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| • Overpopulation | • Climate change |
| • Population collapse | • Viruses |
| • A.I. | • Migration |
| • War | • Alien attacks |

Answers – True False

1 F	2 F	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 T	7 T	8 F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.