

## We may not meet aliens until the year 3500

20th June, 2016



Scientists say it could take at least 1,500 years before humans make contact with species of aliens, or for them to communicate with or find us. Astronomers from Cornell University in the USA combined

two existing theories about the possibility of life existing on other planets to form a new equation. One of these theories is the Fermi Paradox described by physicist Enrico Fermi in 1950. This states that while billions of Earth-like planets exist in our galaxy, not one has made contact with Earth yet. The other is the mediocrity principle, which suggests that because there is life on Earth, it will typically exist on Earth-like planets throughout the universe.

Study author Evan Solomonides will soon present a research paper on his theory. He said: "We haven't heard from aliens yet, as space is a big place, but that doesn't mean no one is out there." According to Solomonides, extraterrestrials could have received signals from Earth. However, he proposes that ET would not have been able to decipher them. He said they would need to decode the light waves into sounds and analyse 3,000 human languages to understand any messages. He said that signals from Earth have only reached about 8,500 stars and that the Milky Way galaxy alone contains 200 billion stars. He added: "If we stop listening or looking, we may miss the signals. So we should keep looking."

Sources: *NatureWorldNews* / *TechTimes* / *Astronomy.com*

## Writing

Aliens are good. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / 1,500 years / aliens / communicate / theories / billions / planets / galaxy / research paper / space / a big place / signals / languages / messages / stars

## True / False

- Scientists said we will meet aliens in 1,500 years from now. T / F
- Scientists looked at 20 different theories on whether aliens exist. T / F
- One theory scientists looked at was from an Italian physicist. T / F
- Another theory said there is life on Earth so there will be on other planets. T / F
- The researcher presented his research paper last month. T / F
- The researcher said aliens could have received signals from Earth. T / F
- The researcher said aliens would need to decode 3,000 languages. T / F
- The researcher suggested we stop looking for alien life. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. at least    | a. being        |
| 2. communicate | b. suggests     |
| 3. possibility | c. work out     |
| 4. existing    | d. make contact |
| 5. throughout  | e. give         |
| 6. present     | f. got to       |
| 7. proposes    | g. more than    |
| 8. decipher    | h. comprises    |
| 9. reached     | i. all over     |
| 10. contains   | j. likelihood   |

## Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- How likely is it that aliens exist?
- What would you say to an alien if you met one?
- What would social media reaction to an alien landing be like?
- What would your feelings be on suddenly meeting an alien?
- How much of a threat would aliens be?
- What would you do with an alien for one day?
- What will Earth be like in the year 3500?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. make contact with species             | a. is out there               |
| 2. combined                              | b. like planets               |
| 3. billions of                           | c. into sounds                |
| 4. it will typically exist on Earth-     | d. on his theory              |
| 5. throughout the                        | e. two existing theories      |
| 6. present a research paper              | f. signals from Earth         |
| 7. that doesn't mean no one              | g. Earth-like planets exist   |
| 8. extraterrestrials could have received | h. contains 200 billion stars |
| 9. decode the light waves                | i. universe                   |
| 10. the Milky Way galaxy alone           | j. of aliens                  |

## Discussion – Student B

- How far will humans go in space?
- What would it be like to live side-by-side with aliens?
- How similar would aliens be to humans?
- What would you do on day one if aliens attacked Earth?
- What is your favourite movie about aliens?
- What would aliens like and dislike about Earth?
- What advice do you have for aliens?
- What questions would you like to ask the astronomers?

## Spelling

- make contact with cepssei of aliens
- described by cistsipyh Enrico Fermi
- ionibsl of Earth-like planets exist
- The other is the dtcryiomei principle
- it will lytaicpyl exist
- throughout the sirevnue
- present a research paper on his etyrho
- However, he esosoppr that ET would not
- able to rcdeehip them
- aselyan (UK) / alanyze (USA) 3,000 human languages
- the Milky Way agyalx alone
- we may miss the aislnsg

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – A rock

You think a rock is the best souvenir to give an alien. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their souvenirs aren't good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a plant, an encyclopaedia or a Sony PlayStation.

### Role B – A plant

You think a plant is the best souvenir to give an alien. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their souvenirs aren't good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a rock, an encyclopaedia or a Sony PlayStation.

### Role C – An encyclopaedia

You think an encyclopaedia is the best souvenir to give an alien. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their souvenirs aren't good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a plant, a rock or a Sony PlayStation.

### Role D – A Sony PlayStation

You think a Sony PlayStation is the best souvenir to give an alien. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their souvenirs aren't good. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): a plant, an encyclopaedia or a rock.

## Speaking – Souvenir

Rank these with your partner. Put the best souvenir to give an alien visiting Earth at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| • a rock     | • a Sony PlayStation      |
| • a plant    | • an encyclopaedia        |
| • a DVD      | • a piano                 |
| • a painting | • a book on world cooking |

### Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	T	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.