

## New nation of Asgardia established in space

29th June, 2018



A Russian billionaire has attended his inauguration as leader of humankind's first ever nation in space. Igor Ashurbeyli, a computer scientist, established the space nation of Asgardia at a ceremony in

Vienna, Austria on Monday. In his inauguration address, Mr Ashurbeyli stated that: "This day will certainly be recorded in the annals of history as one of the greatest events for humankind. We have established all branches of government. I can therefore declare with confidence that Asgardia - the first space nation of the united humankind - has been born." He also said his nation was a "global humanitarian project" that would pioneer the future colonization of space and set up human colonies on the Moon.

Asgardia is named after Asgard - a flying city in ancient Scandinavian mythology. It already has a growing number of would-be citizens. Around 200,000 people have signed up to claim their Asgardian nationality. Within the next 10 years, Asgardia hopes to amass a population of 150 million. This would make it the ninth most populous country. Future candidates to become an Asgard national will have to pass an IQ test to prove they are of a higher intelligence. They will also have to pay an annual membership of 100 euros. Asgardia has a long-term goal to launch life-sustaining, high-tech, verdant arks in space, where Asgardian citizens can live and prosper.

Sources: [independent.co.uk](http://independent.co.uk) / [thesun.co.uk](http://thesun.co.uk) / [newsweek.com](http://newsweek.com)

## Writing

The future of the human race is in space. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

billionaire / scientists / leader / nation / space / ceremony / history / global / colonies / ancient / mythology / nationality / population / candidates / intelligence / prosper

## True / False

- a) A space nation was started by a billionaire Russian scientist. T / F
- b) The space nation was inaugurated at a ceremony in Australia. T / F
- c) The space nation has all its branches of government set up. T / F
- d) The space nation leader said there would be colonies on the moon. T / F
- e) The nation's name of Asgardia is taken from ancient Greek Mythology. T / F
- f) The leader thinks about 350 million people will join Asgardia. T / F
- g) Anyone can become an Asgardia citizen. There is no test to join. T / F
- h) It is free to become a citizen of Asgardia. T / F

## Synonym Match

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

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 1. <b>leader</b>      | a. yearly           |
| 2. <b>established</b> | b. speech           |
| 3. <b>address</b>     | c. potential        |
| 4. <b>branches</b>    | d. develop          |
| 5. <b>pioneer</b>     | e. assemble         |
| 6. <b>would-be</b>    | f. chief            |
| 7. <b>claim</b>       | g. flourish         |
| 8. <b>amass</b>       | h. divisions        |
| 9. <b>annual</b>      | i. set up           |
| 10. <b>prosper</b>    | j. formally request |

## Discussion – Student A

- a) What would it be like to live in space?
- b) Would life on Mars or the Moon be best?
- c) Will Earth be able to sustain life forever?
- d) How will this event be recorded in history?
- e) What do you think of the idea of space nations?
- f) If there are space nations, will there be space wars?
- g) How sad would it be to leave Earth to live in space?
- h) What do you think of colonies on the Moon?

## Phrase Match

- |                                       |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. A Russian billionaire has attended | a. and prosper           |
| 2. computer                           | b. of government         |
| 3. In his inauguration                | c. mythology             |
| 4. established all branches           | d. scientist             |
| 5. set up human colonies              | e. test                  |
| 6. ancient Scandinavian               | f. his inauguration      |
| 7. signed up to claim their           | g. membership            |
| 8. pass an IQ                         | h. address               |
| 9. pay an annual                      | i. Asgardian nationality |
| 10. citizens can live                 | j. on the Moon           |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What would you call the next space nation?
- Would you like to be a citizen of Asgardia?
- Why is there an intelligence test to be an Asgardia citizen?
- Could Asgardia be a money-making scheme?
- What new developments will there be with space nations?
- What would the problems be of living in space?
- What questions would you like to ask the Asgardia leader?

## Spelling

- attended his nagiurrtanio
- at a ryceomen in Vienna
- This day will eytirncal be recorded
- declare with ecnefcondi
- peonier the future
- set up human nioecols on the Moon
- in enitnca Scandinavian mythology
- a growing number of would-be ecnsizti
- the ninth most usplopouo country
- Future tdnsaiced
- pay an anulna membership
- high-tech, vrndtea arks in space

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Food

You think food is what you would miss most if you lived in space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why you wouldn't miss their things as much. Also, tell the others which of these things you would miss least (and why): mountains, blue sky or diversity.

### Role B – Mountains

You think mountains is what you would miss most if you lived in space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why you wouldn't miss their things as much. Also, tell the others which of these things you would miss least (and why): food, blue sky or diversity.

### Role C – Blue Sky

You think blue sky is what you would miss most if you lived in space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why you wouldn't miss their things as much. Also, tell the others which of these things you would miss least (and why): mountains, food, or diversity.

### Role D – Diversity

You think diversity is what you would miss most if you lived in space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why you wouldn't miss their things as much. Also, tell the others which of these things you would miss least (and why): mountains, blue sky or food.

## Speaking – Missing Earth

Rank these with your partner. Put the things you would most miss about Earth if you lived in space at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| • blue sky  | • food      |
| • cities    | • mountains |
| • oceans    | • travel    |
| • diversity | • Earth air |

### Answers – True False

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