

Scientists start huge search for E.T.

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Is there life on other planets? Are we alone? These are two of the biggest questions humans have been asking for centuries. Now, scientists have launched a new search to find out if there is... anybody... out there. The researchers are from the SETI Institute

in California. SETI stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. The mission of SETI is, "to explore, understand and explain the origin and nature of life in the universe and the evolution of intelligence". SETI scientists will use new technologies to scan the heavens for signs of alien life. They will share their data with the public. SETI hopes that by sharing data, "citizen scientists" could spot things missed by scientists.

SETI's astronomers will use 28 giant radio telescopes in their search for alien life. The telescopes are located all around the world. It will be the first time that a project will search the entire sky for signs of alien life. The signs they are looking for are called "techno-signatures". These include things like alien chemicals, large amounts of oxygen, non-natural structures, and light from lasers. Astronomer Dr Tony Beasley said: "Determining whether we are alone in the universe as technologically capable life is among the most compelling questions in science." Another scientist, Jill Tarter, said we are getting closer to finding out if alien life exists. She said this science is now no longer fiction, but "almost mainstream".

Sources: independent.co.uk / phys.org / seti.org

Writing

Finding alien life is the most important thing in science. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

life / planets / questions / scientists / extraterrestrial / evolution / alien / intelligence / astronomer / telescope / project / sky / signature / chemical / universe / fiction

True / False

- a) The article asked whether or not we were alone. T / F
- b) The scientists are from an institute in Hawaii. T / F
- c) The scientists say they will go to heaven for doing their work. T / F
- d) Citizen scientists will help real scientists to spot signs of aliens. T / F
- e) Scientists will use 28 radio telescopes to look for alien life. T / F
- f) This is the second time scientists have searched the whole sky. T / F
- g) A scientist said we are getting no closer to finding alien life. T / F
- h) A scientist said science fiction is now like mainstream science. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. alone | a. is alive |
| 2. launched | b. goal |
| 3. stands for | c. hunt |
| 4. mission | d. started |
| 5. data | e. normal |
| 6. search | f. powerful |
| 7. entire | g. information |
| 8. compelling | h. by ourselves |
| 9. exists | i. whole |
| 10. mainstream | j. means |

Discussion– Student A

- a) Is there life on other planets?
- b) Are we alone?
- c) How would you feel if scientists found alien life?
- d) What would alien life think about us?
- e) What would you say to an alien if you met one?
- f) What things on Earth would you show aliens?
- g) What do you think the scientists will find?
- h) How interested are you in astronomy?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. questions humans have been | a. missed by scientists |
| 2. explain the origin and nature | b. longer fiction |
| 3. the evolution of | c. sky for signs |
| 4. They will share their data | d. asking for centuries |
| 5. "citizen scientists" could spot things | e. intelligence |
| 6. astronomers will use 28 giant | f. questions in science |
| 7. search the entire | g. of oxygen |
| 8. large amounts | h. with the public |
| 9. the most compelling | i. radio telescopes |
| 10. She said this science is now no | j. of life |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What experiences do you have with telescopes?
- What might the dangers of aliens be?
- How worried are you about an alien attack?
- Do you think there could ever be space wars?
- What do you think of science fiction?
- What big questions about life do you have?
- What questions would you like to ask the astronomers?

Spelling

- asking for retucensi
- The isisonm of SETI
- explain the rngoi and nature of life
- the toveuloni of intelligence
- scan the nveheas for signs of alien life
- tinzcej scientists
- SETI's metsraosnor
- 28 giant radio sltsoepece
- a project will search the enerit sky
- large amounts of xyeong
- we are alone in the sniervu
- almost sminmraeat

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Aliens

You think aliens are the best thing about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): black holes, zero gravity or colonizing Mars.

Role B – Black Holes

You think black holes are the best thing about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): aliens, zero gravity or colonizing Mars.

Role C – Zero Gravity

You think zero gravity is the best thing about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): black holes, aliens or colonizing Mars.

Role D – Colonizing Mars

You think colonizing Mars is the best thing about space. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which are the least interesting of these (and why): black holes, zero gravity or aliens.

Speaking – Space

Rank these with your partner. Put the most interesting things about space at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| • Aliens | • The Aurora Borealis |
| • Black Holes | • Space dust |
| • Comets | • Zero gravity |
| • The Moon | • Colonizing Mars |

Answers – True False

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