

Should We Explore the Deep Sea or Outer Space?

Learning objective: To analyse and evaluate the structure and language features of a balanced discussion text.

Read the discussion text written by Max the monkey and Nova the owl. Pay close attention to the use of formal, objective language and cohesive devices. Answer the questions below in full, formal sentences.

There is an ongoing debate regarding where humanity should direct its scientific focus: the mysterious depths of our oceans or the vast, unexplored reaches of outer space. Proponents of deep-sea exploration argue that the ocean is vital to our survival. It regulates our climate and provides essential resources. Furthermore, the majority of the ocean floor remains unmapped, hiding biological secrets that could revolutionise medicine. Conversely, supporters of space exploration claim that looking upwards is essential for the long-term future of our species. They suggest that colonising other planets could prevent overpopulation and provide a safeguard against planetary threats. Additionally, space technology has already led to inventions such as satellite communication and advanced water filtration systems. While deep-sea missions are crucial for understanding Earth's present health, space travel offers a vision for the future. Ultimately, both fields require substantial funding and global cooperation to ensure that scientific discovery benefits all of humanity.

Word bank: alternatively · furthermore · conversely · perspective · objective · consequently · substantial · speculative

1. Identify two formal conjunctions used in the text to signal a counter-argument or a change in perspective. Explain why these are important in a discussion text. (2 marks)

2. Summarise the main argument presented by the supporters of space exploration. Use evidence from the text to support your answer. (2 marks)

3. Compare and contrast the reasons given for both sides of the argument. Which side do you find more compelling and why? (3 marks)

4. Explain why the author uses objective language (e.g., 'proponents', 'consequently') rather than emotive, personal language. (2 marks)

5. What might happen if governments decided to stop funding one of these areas entirely? Justify your prediction. (3 marks)

Draw: Draw a split-screen illustration. On the left, depict the bioluminescent creatures of the deep ocean that Pip the caterpillar has discovered. On the right, draw a sleek, futuristic space station orbiting a distant planet as imagined by Nova the owl.



Extension challenge: Write a short paragraph (50-80 words) adding a third perspective to this discussion. Consider the role of protecting our existing rainforests. Use at least two cohesive devices from the word bank to link your arguments logically.