

Life on a Space Station

These images represent Jeff Bezos' vision of the giant inhabitable space stations he wants to build. Do you think his vision could become reality? Can you imagine what life might be like there?



- Watch the video about Jeff Bezos' vision for the future of humans in space:
<https://www.businessinsider.com/jeff-bezos-reveals-blue-origin-future-space-plans-2019-5?IR=T>

What information is given in the video about the following:

- ☞ The number of people who will be able to live and work in space
- ☞ The name Bezos' gives to his space colonies and why
- ☞ How will the giant space stations create their own gravity?
- ☞ Will they only be for humans?
- ☞ Why are they going to be "pleasant places to live" according to Bezos?
- ☞ Why is this idea impossible at this time?
- ☞ What two things does Bezos plan to do with his company Blue Origin in order to make these space colonies possible?

- Read the transcript below the video to check your answers.

Create your Space Station

Imagine that this idea of building enormous inhabitable space stations is realised in 2045. These space stations are big enough for more than a million inhabitants, they can be powered 100% by solar energy.

You are part of a group in charge of deciding what it looks like, how its inhabitants will live and how it will be organised. It can be based on existing structures on planet Earth (e.g., nations, governments, industries, financial systems) or it could be an opportunity to start afresh and create a new kind of society which might avoid some of the biggest problems we face on Earth today.

- In pairs or groups, you are going to create a living world on your Space Station. Use the ideas listed on the following page to make notes and create a plan for life on your space station.

Create your Space Station

- ⌘ Name of station and inhabitants (will they have a new “national” identity?)
 - ⌘ Language/s
 - ⌘ Currency (if required)
 - ⌘ Calendar (the lengths of hours/days/weeks etc could change as the solar orbit of the space station wouldn't be the same as Earth's or sunlight and darkness can be controlled)
 - ⌘ Climate and geography
 - ⌘ Buildings/settlements/living spaces
 - ⌘ Leadership/management
 - ⌘ Education
 - ⌘ Food
 - ⌘ Employment
 - ⌘ Health
 - ⌘ Transport (both on the space station and with other space stations and Earth)
 - ⌘ Communication
 - ⌘ Nature
- Once you've come up with your ideas for your Space Station you can present them to your class. Remember you are talking about this as if it is reality so you should use the future forms “will” and “going to” or “might”, “may” & “could” – see *Summary of Modal Verbs for prediction and speculation*.

Discussion

- Would your ideas only work on a space station or could they be realised on Earth? Why/Why not?
- Bezos sees these space stations as a new home for our species, a solution for near-term problems like poverty and pollution. Do you think the colonisation of space is the best answer to our problems? Why/why not?