

Immersive Reading

Read, Reflect, and Discover

Discussion Builders

1

Michael Dyer

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Prepare

In pairs or groups, come up with as many words as possible on the topic of **space exploration**.

astronaut

rocket

satellite

**Describe**

Look at the image on page 1. What does it depict?

Pre-Listening Discussion

Discuss the following.

1. Why is Venus often referred to as Earth's "twin?" What similarities and differences are you aware of?
2. What conditions are needed for there to be life on a planet? Do you think Venus meets any of these criteria?
3. How do discoveries about other planets increase our understanding of Earth?
4. What scientific value is there in studying extreme environments on other planets?
5. What role do space missions play in changing our perceptions about the solar system?
6. How do you think life could potentially adapt to extreme environments found on other planets?
7. What can scientists learn by studying both the surface and atmosphere of planets such as Venus?
8. What are your thoughts on the possibility of microbial life existing outside Earth?
9. Can studying planets such as Venus help us in the search for extraterrestrial life? Why or why not?
10. What advancements in technology have helped us to explore planets such as Venus?

Final Discussion

Discuss the following.

1. How do findings about Venus challenge or reinforce our ideas of what makes a planet habitable?
2. Discuss how asteroids and comets could possibly seed life across the solar system.
3. What are the ethical implications of potentially finding life on other planets?
4. How does the study of planets such as Venus influence future space missions?
5. Can the study of Venus provide insights into climate change processes on Earth?

Student A

Unit 1

Reading Comprehension

Quiz your partner on the following.

1. What was initially believed about the conditions on Venus?
 - a. It was similar to Earth with possible oceans.*
 - b. It was totally covered in ice.
 - c. It was a dry and arid landscape.
2. What did space probes in the 1960s reveal about Venus?
 - a. It was a hostile environment with extreme conditions.*
 - b. It had suitable conditions for life.
 - c. It was extremely cold.
3. What did the Pioneer mission discover on Venus in 1979?
 - a. Bright spots that suggested icy regions
 - b. Mysterious dark streaks in its clouds*
 - c. Green patches that indicated vegetation
4. What are the dark patches on Venus thought to be associated with?
 - a. High levels of sulfur that absorbs UV light*
 - b. High concentrations of volcanic ash
 - c. Organic compounds similar to those on Earth
5. How might life exist in Venus's atmosphere?
 - a. Through the presence of water in vapor form
 - b. As simple microbial life adapted to extreme conditions*
 - c. As advanced multi-cellular organisms

Student B

Unit 1

Reading Comprehension

Quiz your partner on the following.

6. What might we learn from the study of Venus's potential life forms?
 - a. It could prove Venus is habitable for humans.
 - b. It might alter our understanding of biochemistry and evolution.*
 - c. It could confirm Venus as a second Earth.
7. How did Venus's oceans affect its climate over time?
 - a. They intensified the greenhouse effect.*
 - b. They led to the development of complex ecosystems.
 - c. They stabilized the climate.
8. What supports the idea of life migrating from Venus to Earth?
 - a. The exchange of material between planets through impacts*
 - b. Direct observations of organisms on Venus
 - c. Signals of biological origin detected in Venus's clouds
9. How did the exploration focus of Venus change over time?
 - a. From finding water to proving it uninhabitable
 - b. From studying its moons to focusing on the planet itself
 - c. From seeking a second Earth to uncovering unique secrets*
10. What does Venus's early history suggest about its potential to support life?
 - a. It has had stable conditions conducive to life for billions of years.
 - b. It might have been a warm incubator for life in the early solar system.*
 - c. It was always too hostile for any form of life.



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