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Space Exploration

 While many people love the idea of space exploration, others aren’t too fond of it. With all the ethical and financial repercussions, some people feel that it is just not worth it to explore the rest of the universe. People strongly believe that space should be left alone, untouched and undisturbed by humans. They also believe that after returning from our trips to space, it is possible for us to bring back something harmful that could contaminate the rest of the crew and cause a quarantine to be necessary. Finally, people think that money could be used for much more useful things, considering there are other ways to view space that don’t involve spending money for its investigation.

 Regarding space exploration, there are many ethnic concerns that people have that go against the exploitation of the solar system and its resources. Many people think that our only job relating to the solar system is to protect and take care of it, not benefit from its resources. According to Source E, we must protect ‘the final frontier’ and “that we leave the moon, Mars, and space itself no worse-and perhaps better- than we found them.” As we continue to explore space, as a sign of respect for our solar system, we must keep in mind the ethical concerns.

Another reason why people don’t think space exploration is worth it, is because of the many things that could go wrong coming back from the other planets, relating to contamination and extraterrestrials. Although it has never been a problem before, it is a possibility for us to accidentally bring something back from our explorations that could be harmful to not only the crew but also dangerous to bring back to earth. Safety procedures are a big part of space exploration, and as long as all of the rules are followed, it shouldn’t be a big concern, but it could still be a problem. According to Source F, “the infection of alien ecosystems by terrestrial organisms hitchhiking on a spacecraft- is a distinct possibility”. With safety being a major concern, many people feel that the exploration of our solar system isn’t necessary.

Lastly, people believe that funding space travel is not something that our country should be spending so much money on. Source E says that “around $5.3 billion (is) dedicated to space exploration”. While people do enjoy the idea of knowing what’s out there in our universe, they don’t think that the people behind space travel should be provided with that much money. According to the author of Source H, “I don’t see the case for using taxpayer money to get it done. Don’t tell me about all the spin-off technologies...Leave the money here on earth”. Financial concerns are a big reason that space exploration is frowned upon, although it is a beautiful thing.

Although many people support the idea of traveling into space to explore and gain more knowledge about our universe and solar system, there are many naysayers who have concerns, both financial and ethical. Some people believe we should be respectful of the beautiful universe we are provided with by leaving it alone. Others believe that there are many contamination and health risks we are taking when we explore space, that could potentially be dangerous for us. Many people also believe that space exploration isn’t worth all the money, and we shouldn’t be using all the money we are given to explore the solar system. Those are just a few issues that people have with space travel and the exploration of our universe.