

WHY EXPLORE SPACE?

SYNOPSIS

A THOUGHT-PROVOKING FILM, WHICH RAISES QUESTIONS IN BOTH SCIENCE AND SOCIAL STUDIES. WHAT ARE THE VALUES OF SPACE RESEARCH? HOW DOES IT RELATE TO WORLD PROBLEMS? WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF SCIENCE? HOW WILL NEW KNOWLEDGE CHANGE YOUR LIFE? THE THEME IS BROUGHT TO LIFE THROUGH A SUPERBLY DOCUMENTED HISTORIC EVENT: THE FLIGHT OF JOHN GLENN, FIRST AMERICAN TO CIRCLE THE EARTH IN SPACE.

CONTENT

WHY DOES MAN EXPLORE THE UNKNOWN?

PARTLY BECAUSE HE SEEKS NEW KNOWLEDGE OF HIS ENVIRONMENT. EACH JOURNEY INTO SPACE IS A MEANS OF PERFORMING EXPERIMENTS.

PARTLY BECAUSE NEW KNOWLEDGE CAN HELP MAN IN MANY WAYS—IN COMMUNICATION, WEATHER, TRANSPORTATION, MEDICINE . . .

PARTLY BECAUSE KNOWLEDGE OF SPACE IS ESSENTIAL FOR NATIONAL SECURITY.

BUT MAN ALSO EXPLORES BECAUSE IT IS HIS NATURE TO BE CURIOUS . . . TO LEARN. LIKE COLUMBUS, WE CANNOT KNOW IN ADVANCE WHAT WE MAY DISCOVER, OR HOW IT MAY CHANGE THE WORLD.

IDEAS FOR DISCUSSION AND RESEARCH

THINK OF SEVERAL WAYS IN WHICH SPACE RESEARCH AFFECTS YOUR DAILY LIFE.

COMPARE THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE TO AN EARLIER TIME OF DISCOVERY AND EXPLORATION. HOW DID COLUMBUS' DISCOVERY CHANGE THE WORLD? DID COLUMBUS REALIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF HIS DISCOVERY AT THE TIME?

TRY TO IMAGINE SOME FUTURE DISCOVERIES THAT WOULD AFFECT THE WAY WE LIVE.

HOW DOES SPACE RESEARCH AFFECT WORLD PROBLEMS? FIND OUT HOW IT MAY AFFECT COMMUNICATIONS, WEATHER, TRANSPORTATION, HEALTH, NATIONAL DEFENSE.

MAKE A REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE.

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