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The Limitations of Space Travel

Why Can't We Find ET?



Scientists speculate that there is life outside of Earth. But if there is life in another galaxy, why haven't we met them yet?

1. They're far, far away

Mars is the closest planet to Earth. Even so, it can take about 8 months to get there. It took almost ten years for a spacecraft to travel from Earth to Pluto. None of the other planets in our solar system has what is needed for living things to survive.



Mars is the closest planet to our own.

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2. We don't have the technology

Special equipment would be needed to visit other planets. People can survive on the International Space Station because it is close to Earth and the things they need can be stocked regularly. Once

you enter deep space, however, you're on your own. Space shuttles use a lot of oxygen and other gases for power. But they can only carry so much oxygen. In addition, shuttles would need to carry food, water, and extra oxygen for people to breathe.

3. Stress on the human body and mind

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Looking to the future

Scientists have been trying to come up with ways to allow humans to travel long distances in space safely, including:

- Using a "solar sail" that would help space shuttles travel very fast
- Force fields to protect people from radiation
- Plants that can survive in space

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- A warp drive
- Ways to put people into a deep sleep for thousands of years until they reach their destination



Water recycling is one tactic scientists are developing to allow long-distance space travel.

Reading Comprehension Questions:

1. Which planet is closest to Earth? How long would it take to get there?
2. How
3. What is a light year?
4. Why
5. How
6. How long would it take our current fastest ship to reach the nearest Earth-like planet?
7. Name
8. List two things that scientists are working on that will help us travel long distances in space.

Extension Question:

9. Research the topic of

TWTF SAMPLE

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TWF SAMPLE

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