

# Space Exploration



## Definition

The investigation, by means of crewed and uncrewed spacecraft, of the reaches of the universe beyond Earth's atmosphere and the use of the information so gained to increase knowledge of the cosmos and benefit humanity

## Organic Influences

- Human wonder about the nature of objects seen in the night sky
- Development of space technology
- Exploration of Space in 20th century
- writer and artist imagination about what was in the sky
- Aircraft pilots and scientific curiosity

## 21st Century Space Race

- Private spaceflight including NASA's Commercial Crew Program utilizing spacecraft from SpaceX and Boeing
- SpaceX Dragon
- Boeing Starliner Spacecraft
- Sub-orbital space tourism via Virgin Galactic
- Discovery for new habitable planets
- Goal is to increase competition and driving down costs on spaceflight

## Elements

- Discovery
- Scientific understanding
- Application of understanding to serve human purposes

## Sci-Fi Influences

- Interstellar
- Star Wars
- Star Trek
- The Martian
- DC/Marvel
- Avengers series
- Guardians of the Galaxy

## Resource Links + Timelines

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/article/future-spaceflight>

<https://www.space.com/38700-nasa-history.html>

<https://aerospace.org/article/brief-history-space-exploration>

[https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/whyweexplore/why\\_we\\_explore\\_main.html](https://www.nasa.gov/exploration/whyweexplore/why_we_explore_main.html)

<https://www.archives.gov/research/aic/reference/space-timeline.html>