

IS SPACE TRAVEL INSPIRATIONAL?



Saturday 11th April saw the completion of NASA’s historic Artemis II mission. The 10-day journey successfully completed a flyby of the moon and took the crew farther from Earth than any humans have been before. NASA says this is just the beginning, with further launches and lunar landings planned in the coming years. Space travel has captured the imaginations of young people for generations and, with plans for a Moonbase and even travel to Mars on the horizon, it seems theirs could be a world previously only imagined in the realms of science fiction. But do they see it this way? We wanted to know how young people felt about space travel, following NASA’s recent success.

Alex
Data Coordinator



59,212

TOTAL VOTES

12,461

VOTES AGE 5-11

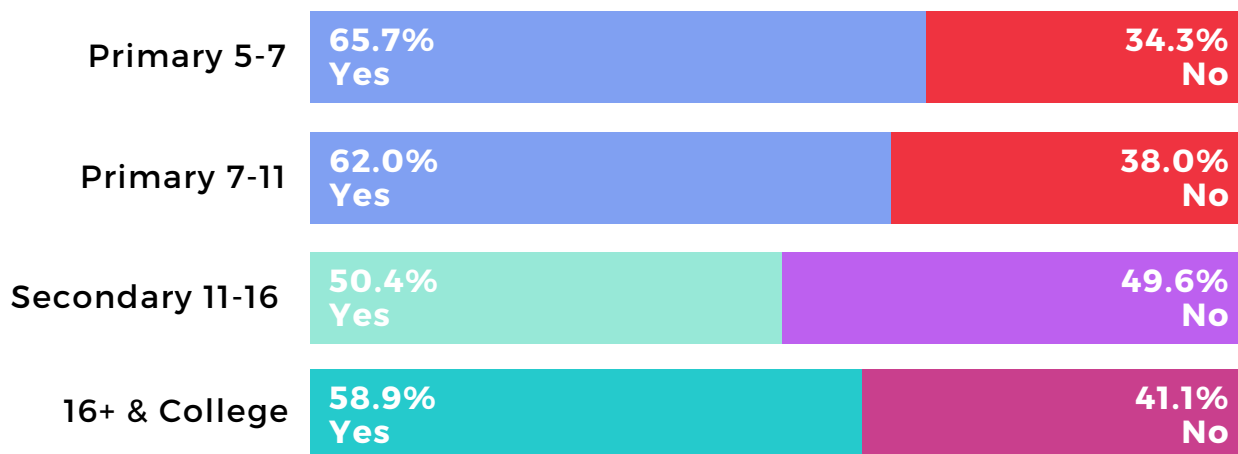
46,751

VOTES AGE 11-16+

The VoteTopic questions discussed amongst the different age groups were:

Primary 5-7: “Does space travel inspire you?”

Primary 7-11, Secondary, 16+ & College: “Is space travel inspirational?”



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Primary voters were the most likely to see space travel as inspirational.

Discussions centred around curiosity and were full of questions about space. A number of pupils shared the belief that space travel could help us learn lots more about our world. Some were more concerned with problems on Earth than with exploring space. Others also referenced the possible environmental damage of space travel.

Voters were more divided at Secondary. While the majority still voted that space travel is inspirational, a recurring theme from young people was that it had no real effect on their lives. It was seen as inaccessible and a distraction from solving problems on Earth by some students. Others spoke about the cost and how that money could be used to help “life on Earth”. Several said that, while they found space travel cool and interesting, they would not go as far as to say that it was “inspirational”.

16+ & College voters shared many of the opinions of their Secondary peers, although they voted slightly more favourably, discussing space travel’s role in human advancement.

Across all age groups, a small number of respondents commented on associating space with feelings of fear, finding the whole concept “scary”.

We can learn more about the universe.

Primary Yes Voter

I think no because space travel can be bad for the environment and it costs lots of money.

Primary No Voter

Yes, I think space travel is inspirational because it shows what humans can achieve in the future.

16+ & College Voter

We should be focused on our own planet and sustainability than on space.

Secondary No Voter

Please contact info@votesforschools.com to find out more about the data relating to this VoteTopic.