The New Moon Race

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Which country was the first to launch a satellite into space?
2. Should humans be spending money on space exploration?
3. Which country will be the next to land a man on the moon?
4. What is the International Space Station?

B. Vocabulary Preview

Match up as many words and meanings as you can.
Check this exercise again after seeing the words in context on page 2.

_____	1.	intense	a)	travel for the purpose of discovery
_____	2.	rivalry	b)	very strong
_____	3.	launch	c)	competition
_____	4.	satellite	d)	to send out or start for the first time
_____	5.	momentum	e)	an organization that does a particular job
_____	6.	analyst	f)	power of growth
_____	7.	exploration	g)	a person who studies information to find answers
_____	8.	funding	h)	a communication device in space
_____	9.	agency	i)	to keep something in operation, to look after
_____	10.	maintain	j)	money offered (often from the government) for a specific purpose

Copyright 2020, Red River Press Inc. For use by Ellii members only. (INT / VERSION 4.1)

Reading

THE NEW MOON RACE
Who will win?

1. In the 1950s and '60s, the US and the Soviet Union had an **intense rivalry**. They both wanted to be the first to explore space. During the Space Age, the USSR **launched** the first **satellite**. The US answered by putting the first astronauts on the moon.
2. Fifty years later, a new space race began gaining **momentum**. China, Japan, and India have joined Russia and the US in a new space race to the moon. In 2019, the US president directed NASA to put an astronaut on the moon by 2024.
3. Which country do you think will put the next man on the moon? Some space **analysts** think it will be a Chinese taikonaut who walks on the moon next rather than another astronaut from NASA. An unmanned Chinese space probe and rover landed successfully on the moon in 2013. In 2020, NASA granted contracts to three companies to try to build the next lunar spacecraft. Elon Musk of SpaceX won one of the bids. Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon, will also compete.
4. Space **exploration** and technology is extremely costly. This modern race has less to do with science and more to do with **funding**. In some years, space exploration has been an international effort. Space **agencies** from five different nations joined together to build and **maintain** the International Space Station.
5. Many people think space exploration should remain a joint project. Others think money should be spent on maintaining peace on Earth.

"The moon is the perfect ground to get our feet wet for Mars."

—Robert Bigelow, aerospace entrepreneur

Comprehension

Discuss these questions in pairs, and write the answers in your notebook.

1. Which competition is mentioned at the beginning of the reading?
2. Which countries are taking part in the new race to the moon?
3. What is a taikonaut?
4. How many nations joined to look after the International Space Station?
5. How does the reading end?

Copyright 2020, Red River Press Inc. For use by Ellii members only. (INT / VERSION 4.1)

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.
You may need to change the word forms.

1. With Elon Musk's help, the US is gaining _____ in the race to the moon.
2. China's space program requires more _____ in order to put the next man on the moon.
3. While they are in space, the astronauts will _____ the International Space Station.
4. When the Russians _____ their first _____ , some Americans thought the space race was over.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

1. Government <u>agencies</u> from five different states will be at the conference.

   a) employers
   b) investigators
   c) moonwalkers
   d) organizations

2. The political argument over how much money should be spent on space exploration is <u>intense</u>.

   a) unfair
   b) busy
   c) surprised
   d) heavy

3. Interest in the space program has been losing <u>momentum</u> since the country fell into debt.

   a) time
   b) power
   c) interest
   d) memory

4. The <u>rivalry</u> between the Russians and the Americans now includes other international space programs.

   a) unhappiness
   b) difficulty
   c) passion
   d) competition

5. Though space <u>exploration</u> has only been possible in the last few decades, it is hard to imagine life without it.

   a) television viewing
   b) exciting events
   c) discovery through travel
   d) walking on the moon

Copyright 2020, Red River Press Inc. For use by Ellii members only. (INT / VERSION 4.1)

Discussion

1. Some people think the American lunar landings never happened. What's your opinion on this theory?
2. Do you think countries will compete to own the moon?
3. Do you think space tourism will be common in your lifetime?
4. Would you want to travel to space? Why or why not?

Class Opinion

1. Which issue is more important, peace on Earth or space exploration?
2. Which country will be the next to land a manned spacecraft on the moon?
3. Will space holidays be an option for the average family in the next 100 years?
4. Which is more important, exploring Mars or the moon?

Copyright 2020, Red River Press Inc. For use by Ellii members only. (INT / VERSION 4.1)

Listening

Fill in the blanks as you listen to the recording.

THE NEW MOON RACE
Who will win?

1. In the 1950s and '60s, the US and the Soviet Union had an intense _____ . They both wanted to be the first to explore space. During the Space Age, the USSR _____ the first _____ . The US answered by putting the first astronauts on the moon.
2. Fifty years later, a new space race began gaining _____ . China, Japan, and India have joined _____ and the US in a new space race to the moon. In 2019, the US president directed NASA to put an astronaut on the moon by 2024.
3. Which country do you think will put the next man on the moon? Some space _____ think it will be a Chinese taikonaut who walks on the moon next rather than another astronaut from NASA. An unmanned Chinese space _____ and rover landed successfully on the moon in 2013. In 2020, NASA granted contracts to three companies to try to build the next lunar spacecraft. Elon Musk of SpaceX won one of the bids. Jeff Bezos, the CEO of Amazon, will also compete.
4. Space _____ and technology is extremely costly. This modern race has less to do with science and more to do with _____ . In some years, space exploration has been an international effort. Space agencies from five different nations joined together to build and _____ the International Space Station.
5. Many people think space exploration should remain a _____ project. Others think money should be spent on maintaining peace on Earth.

Copyright 2020, Red River Press Inc. For use by Ellii members only. (INT / VERSION 4.1)

Answer Key

LESSON DESCRIPTION:

In this lesson, students read about the new moon race. The lesson includes vocabulary review exercises, comprehension questions, and discussion questions.

LEVEL: Int

TIME: 1.5–2 hours

TAGS: discussion, space, space exploration, moon, moon race, Apollo, US, Russia, Soviet Union, Elon Musk, Jeff Bezos, NASA

Pre-Reading

A. WARM-UP QUESTIONS

Answers will vary. Have students work in small groups or as a class.

B. VOCABULARY PREVIEW

1. b	3. d	5. f	7. a	9. e
2. c	4. h	6. g	8. j	10. i

Reading (and/or Listening)

Read individually, in small groups, or as a class. Discuss the quote. You can also play the listening as your students read along. A gap-fill version of the reading is available on page 5. Help your students with vocabulary and expressions that they are unfamiliar with.

Comprehension

1. The rivalry between the US and USSR (the Soviet Union) that took place during the Space Age is mentioned at the beginning of the reading.
2. China, Japan, India, Russia, and the US are in competition to be the next on the moon.
3. A taikonaut is a Chinese space explorer.
4. Five nations joined together to maintain the International Space Station.
5. At the end of the reading, the author gets the reader thinking about global issues and unity.

Vocabulary Review

A. COMPLETE THE SENTENCES

1. momentum
2. funding
3. maintain
4. launched, satellite

B. CHOOSE THE CORRECT WORD

1. d	2. d	3. b	4. d	5. c

Discussion

Answers will vary.
Can be done individually or in small groups or pairs.

Class Opinion

Answers will vary. Have students walk around the class and survey their classmates. You may want to discuss as a class afterwards.

Listening

1. rivalry, launched, satellite
2. momentum, Russia
3. analysts, probe
4. exploration, funding, maintain
5. joint

Copyright 2020, Red River Press Inc. For use by Ellii members only. (INT / VERSION 4.1)