

WHY DO WE EXPLORE?

Whether we know it or not, we are natural-born explorers. There are many reasons why we explore. From birth we learn about life and how it works by exploring. No one can be satisfied for very long without exploring. Whether you are talking to someone next to you or looking around the room, you are exploring.

Directions:

1. You and your partners will construct the EXPLORE poster on the wall.
2. Each team has a paragraph indicating one of the seven different reasons why humans explore.
3. At the beginning of the paragraph, there is a letter designated for your team. You will use this letter to start a sentence that summarizes your team's reason for exploring.
4. Think of a sentence that describes the ideas from your paragraph. It has to begin with the letter listed on the top of your paragraph. Write the sentence on a piece of paper.
5. Make an illustration to go with your sentence and add it to the paper.
6. Place your team's paper on the class poster and discuss your choices.

Letter “E”: People are curious about everything. We learn something new every day. If you get bored, you automatically look for something to do. That is the way we are. We like to learn new things. We also like to understand things and how they work. From the time you were born, you have been finding out how things work by exploring them. Curiosity makes us Explorers.

Letter “X”: Exploration looks ahead, not behind. We do not want to be stuck in the past. We want to move ahead. Exploration gives us the sense that anything is possible. Exploration leads to knowledge and understanding, and means that you make the world a better place as you explore. People have always tried to leave the world a better place for future generations. Exploration is one way we can do that. It is a gift that people of the past give people of the future. (You may use X or some other letter to start your sentence.)

Letter “P”: Leaders in exploration can be leaders in the world today. In the past, leaders of voyages were the leaders of their society. They were responsible for finding food and resources, as well as ordering society in a new land. Settlers of new islands had to find ways to work together to survive and adapt to their environment. Any time you

have to work with others, you learn about them and yourself. Working together with common goals helps people understand each other. It is very hard to go to war with people you understand. Working together also makes us more creative.

Letter “L”: New places can be helpful to us because they have raw materials and natural resources. New experiences bring us new knowledge. Exploring our world, or exploring beyond our world creates jobs and technology that make our world better. We might look for new ideas such as new sources of energy to make life better for ourselves and future generations.

Letter “O”: Exploration helps us understand our place in our community, our world and our universe. What might we find out from exploring new lands or new ideas that would benefit our lives? What might we learn to help us live better with our families? Our classmates? Our communities?

Letter “R”: Exploration opens up new places and new ideas. The United States was once called the “New World” because the people of Europe discovered it when they thought only an ocean existed there. The Polynesians believed that there were always new islands to be found in the oceans, and continually sought them out. With no new lands to discover on Earth, what are our choices?

Letter “E”: We love adventure and when we explore new places or have new experiences, it is the best kind of adventure. We have landed on the moon, sent spacecraft to the far reaches of the solar system. When humans explore, we make the world and the universe our classroom for learning. When people experience new things, they learn about themselves and grow as responsible and productive human beings.