

## Should The Space Research and Exploration Program in Florida Continue?

**WebQuest Description:** This WebQuest will inform you about The Space Research and Exploration Program in Florida (NASA).

**Grade Level:** 3-5

**Curriculum:** Science

**Keywords:** space, exploration, Florida, economy, research, astronaut, shuttle

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### Introduction

You are living in Florida. You have always dreamed of being an astronaut. Now, after years of preparation, you have been selected to join the NASA corps of astronauts. Preparations begin for your first shuttle flight when you begin to hear talk about the government stopping the financial support for space research and exploration. They have asked you, and a number of other astronauts, for help to save the program. What do you do? How can you explain and defend the impact that space research and exploration has had on the economy and culture of the state of Florida? The future of NASA and space research and exploration is in your hands. What will happen to the economy of Florida? Will space research and exploration continue? Work with your fellow astronauts to continue space research and exploration in Florida. Be prepared to defend your thoughts on the continuation of the program.

### Tasks

In this activity you will understand the impact that the space research and exploration has had on the economy and culture of the state of Florida. You will be able to explain the economy and culture of Florida, The Space Research and Exploration program (NASA) at Cape Canaveral, and their relationship. You will also analyze the information gathered through Web sites and links provided, to determine whether or not to continue federal funding of the program. (Animated Gif from <http://www.gifs.net/gif/>)

### Process

At the computer:

1. Visit the links to help answer the essential questions. Use the arrow buttons on the top left corner of the Web tool bar to go back to the previous page and explore other links.  
\* As you visit the sites, complete the worksheet for the corresponding essential questions. \* Use these links to answer the following questions:  
A. About Florida's Culture and Economy:  
1. How can you describe the economy of Florida?  
2. How can you describe the culture of Florida?  
Links: <http://www.florida-colleges-universities.com/florida-facts.htm>; <http://www.city-data.com/states/Florida-Economy.html>; [http://www.netstate.com/economy/fl\\_economy.htm](http://www.netstate.com/economy/fl_economy.htm)  
B. About the Space Research and Exploration Program (NASA):  
3. What is meant by space research and exploration?  
4. How has space research and exploration affected the economy and culture of the state of Florida?  
5. How much money is spent to fund The Space Research and Exploration program?  
Links: [http://www.nasa.gov/about/highlights/what\\_does\\_nasa\\_do.html](http://www.nasa.gov/about/highlights/what_does_nasa_do.html); [http://www.floridaspacegrant.org/fsgc\\_research3.php?ID=19](http://www.floridaspacegrant.org/fsgc_research3.php?ID=19); <http://www.thespaceplace.com/nasa/spinoffs.html>; [http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2006/sep/HQ\\_06309\\_NEEMO\\_11.html](http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2006/sep/HQ_06309_NEEMO_11.html); [http://www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystem/Why\\_We\\_01pt2.html](http://www.nasa.gov/missions/solarsystem/Why_We_01pt2.html); <http://www.floridaspaceday.com/http://www.floridaspaceday.com/flimpact.php>; <http://fsi.ucf.edu/> Also watch this

video:<http://www.floridamemory.com/OnlineClassroom/NASA/index.cfm>The video is also available to view in the Resources section.

C. About whether or not to continue the NASA program, and the impact the space program has had in the economy and culture of Florida.

6. Is the space research and exploration program worth the money?

7. How will the discontinuation of the space research and exploration program affect Florida's economy and culture?

Links:  
<http://blog.sciseek.com/2008/10/24/why-should-the-us-continue-to-pursue-the-exploration-of-space/>  
[http://www.boston.com/news/science/articles/2010/01/24/space\\_shuttle\\_shutdown\\_hurts\\_florida\\_county/](http://www.boston.com/news/science/articles/2010/01/24/space_shuttle_shutdown_hurts_florida_county/)  
[http://news.yahoo.com/s/ac/20110407/pl\\_ac/8240681\\_government\\_shutdowns\\_impact\\_on\\_florida\\_1](http://news.yahoo.com/s/ac/20110407/pl_ac/8240681_government_shutdowns_impact_on_florida_1)  
<http://www.spaceflorida.gov/index.php/en/why-florida>

In the classroom

- After researching the websites, links, watching the video, gathering the information, analyzing the data, and answering the questions; review and practice for the debate.
- Be prepared to defend your point of view about whether to continue or discontinue The Space Research and Exploration Program in Florida. Base your decision on researched information and evidence.
- Use the chart provided to organize your thoughts about the advantages and disadvantages of the NASA program.

## Evaluation

Keep in mind that the teacher will use the rubrics in the Resources section of this page to evaluate your work and response throughout this project. Just click on "Download File" to upload the rubrics and look at them. (Animated Gif from <http://school.discoveryeducation.com/clipart/>)

Category and Score					Score
				Total Score	

## Conclusion

By working through this WebQuest you have had the opportunity to research the economy and culture of the state of Florida and the impact that the Space Research and Exploration Program has had on it. Now you will be able to defend your point of view as to the continuation or discontinuation of the space program.

## Teacher Page

### Introduction

This lesson was designed for fourth grade students who are looking forward to being actively engaged in their learning. The topic to be covered through the multimedia activity will be: Should the Space Research and Exploration Program in Florida Continue? Students will know about the economy and culture of the state of Florida; the Space Research and Exploration program in Florida, and the impact the space program has had in the economy and culture of Florida.

LearnersThe WebQuest is intended for fourth grade students between an age range from 9-11 years old. The multimedia activity is geared towards fourth grade students based on the current Palm Beach School District New Generation Content Science Standards and the NETS. Students will be able to use research skills to locate, describe, organize, analyze, evaluate, synthesize, and comprehend Florida's economy and culture in connection to the space research and exploration conducted in Florida. Learners will also be able to analyze the data and make informed decisions based on researched information and evidence on whether to continue or discontinue the Space Research and Exploration Program in Florida. Each student will utilize the WebQuest at their own pace. Each student may select to work independently, or with a partner to assist each other with a particular section or activity. Peer tutoring can be offered for students with novice or limited technological skills.





