

Ethics of Colonisation

Name:

Date:

INQUIRY

If we find bacteria on Mars, should we still colonise? Who has the right to claim another planet?

Discuss with your partner. Write your initial ideas below:

Key Vocabulary

Term	Definition
Planetary protection	Preventing contamination between Earth and other worlds.
Outer Space Treaty	1967 agreement: no nation can claim celestial bodies.
Terraforming	Transforming a planet to be more like Earth.

Part A — Ethical Questions

1. For each question, give arguments FOR and AGAINST: (a) Should we terraform Mars? (b) Should private companies own Mars resources? (c) Should we colonise Mars if microscopic life exists there? [6 marks]

Part B — Historical Parallels

2. European colonisation of the Americas had devastating consequences for indigenous peoples. What lessons should we apply to Mars colonisation? Are the situations comparable? Why or why not? [4 marks]

Part C — Your Position

3. Write a 100-word position statement: Should humanity colonise Mars? Use at least 2 scientific facts and 2 ethical arguments. [4 marks]