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Level 3

Luxembourg to develop asteroid mining

6th February, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

Contents

The Article	2	Discussion (Student-Created Qs)	14
Warm-Ups	3	Language Work (Cloze)	15
Before Reading / Listening	4	Spelling	16
While Reading / Listening	5	Put The Text Back Together	17
Match The Sentences And Listen	6	Put The Words In The Right Order	18
Listening Gap Fill	7	Circle The Correct Word	19
Comprehension Questions	8	Insert The Vowels (a, e, i, o, u)	20
Multiple Choice - Quiz	9	Punctuate The Text And Add Capitals	21
Role Play	10	Put A Slash (/) Where The Spaces Are	22
After Reading / Listening	11	Free Writing	23
Student Survey	12	Academic Writing	24
Discussion (20 Questions)	13	Homework	25
		Answers	26

Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

The tiny European nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a major player in the space race. However, its government has just made big investments in the future industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one day help fuel trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and development projects to make sure it is one of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks speeding through space, without damaging natural habitats."

Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the skies for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama signed a law that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a research village on the Moon. This would be used as a base for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow greater exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems ahead for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be able to mine asteroids.

Sources: <http://mashable.com/2016/02/04/luxembourg-asteroid-mining-initiative/#bOJUuel.UgqM>
<http://www.mining-technology.com/news/newsluxembourg-plans-legal-framework-asteroid-mining-4801653>
http://www.spacedaily.com/reports/Luxembourgs_ultimate_offshore_investment_Space_mining_999.html

WARM-UPS

1. ASTEROIDS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about asteroids. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

tiny / European / nation / the space race / investments / mining / wealth / minerals / space resources / vision / research / exploration / solar system / mankind / asteroids

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. EXPLORATION: What are the benefits of these kinds of exploration? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

Exploration	Benefits
Space	
The brain	
Oceans	
Oil and gas	
Self	
Ancient history	

4. SPACE RESOURCES: Students A **strongly** believe it is OK for companies to take space resources; Students B **strongly** believe it is not. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

5. SPACE RACE: Rank these with your partner. Put the best places to get to for resources at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- asteroids
- Mars
- the Moon
- the Sun
- Jupiter
- a comet
- a black hole
- another galaxy

6. SPACE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "space". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- | | |
|--|-------|
| a. Luxembourg is well known for having a major role in the space race. | T / F |
| b. Luxembourg's government has not yet invested in asteroid mining. | T / F |
| c. Private companies will try to mine asteroids for water. | T / F |
| d. A Luxembourg politician said he didn't want to harm natural habitats. | T / F |
| e. Luxembourg is the only country looking into mining space resources. | T / F |
| f. The European Space Agency hopes to build a village on the Moon. | T / F |
| g. A company said using space resources would protect Earth's resources. | T / F |
| h. A 1967 treaty allows companies to mine for space resources. | T / F |

2. SYNONYM MATCH: Match the following synonyms from the article.

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. tiny | a. the heavens |
| 2. major | b. close by |
| 3. near | c. in the future |
| 4. fuel | d. big |
| 5. damaging | e. centre |
| 6. the skies | f. harming |
| 7. let | g. very small |
| 8. base | h. public |
| 9. ahead | i. allow |
| 10. common | j. power |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. well known as a major | a. new places to mine |
| 2. help fuel trips to Mars | b. for mining companies |
| 3. make sure it is one of | c. habitats |
| 4. speeding | d. ahead |
| 5. natural | e. to mine asteroids |
| 6. look up to the skies for | f. and beyond |
| 7. This would be used as a base | g. system |
| 8. exploration of the solar | h. through space |
| 9. there could be problems | i. player in the space race |
| 10. private companies may not be able | j. the leading countries |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

The (1) _____ European nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a major (2) _____ in the space race. However, its government has just made big (3) _____ in the future industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids (4) _____ the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one day help (5) _____ trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and development projects to make (6) _____ it is one of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our (7) _____ is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks (8) _____ through space, without damaging natural habitats."

near
tiny
sure
investments
speeding
player
aim
fuel

Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the (9) _____ for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama signed a (10) _____ that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a (11) _____ for a research village on the Moon. This would be used as a (12) _____ for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow (13) _____ exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems (14) _____ for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are (15) _____ of mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be (16) _____ to mine asteroids.

vision
ahead
skies
able
base
law
part
greater

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

- 1) The tiny European nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a major player _____
 - a. on the space race
 - b. at the space race
 - c. in the space race
 - d. to the space race
- 2) its government has just made big investments in the future industry _____
 - a. of asteroid mine in
 - b. for asteroid mining
 - c. for asteroid mine in
 - d. of asteroid mining
- 3) Some of the things they mine will one day help fuel trips to Mars _____
 - a. and beyond
 - b. and behind
 - c. and bygone
 - d. and be yonder
- 4) looking at research and development projects to make sure it is one of _____
 - a. the loading countries
 - b. the leading countries
 - c. the leaping countries
 - d. the leading country
- 5) Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored _____
 - a. mineral resource
 - b. mineral resource is
 - c. mineral resources
 - d. mineral re sources
- 6) Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the skies for new _____
 - a. places to mime
 - b. places too mine
 - c. place is to mine
 - d. places to mine
- 7) In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a research _____
 - a. village in the Moon
 - b. village inner Moon
 - c. village in a Moon
 - d. village on the Moon
- 8) Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow greater exploration _____
 - a. of the sole a system
 - b. of the soul a system
 - c. of the solar system
 - d. of the seller system
- 9) However, there could be problems _____ companies
 - a. a head for mining
 - b. as head four mining
 - c. ahead for mining
 - d. a head four mining
- 10) The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of _____
 - a. mankind is 'common heritage'
 - b. mankind's 'commonly heritage'
 - c. man's kind 'common heritage'
 - d. mankind's 'common heritage'

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

The tiny European nation of Luxembourg is (1) _____ a major player in the space race. However, its government has just made big investments (2) _____ industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one day (3) _____ to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and development projects to make (4) _____ of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our aim is (5) _____ a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks (6) _____ space, without damaging natural habitats."

Luxembourg (7) _____ country to look up to the skies for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama (8) _____ will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a research village on the Moon. This would (9) _____ base for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources (10) _____ exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, (11) _____ problems ahead for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may (12) _____ mine asteroids.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

1. What does the article say Luxembourg is not well known for?

2. What will private companies mine asteroids for?

3. Where will space resources help fuel future trips to?

4. What is Etienne Schneider's job?

5. What are "lifeless rocks" speeding through?

6. Who might a space village on the Moon be used by?

7. What could space resources allow greater exploration of?

8. What did the article say might be ahead for mining companies?

9. When was the Outer Space Treaty signed?

10. What did the Outer Space Treaty say space resources are part of?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

1. What does the article say Luxembourg is not well known for?
 - a) building space rockets
 - b) the space race
 - c) asteroid mining
 - d) Moon landings
2. What will private companies mine asteroids for?
 - a) coal
 - b) plutonium
 - c) water and minerals
 - d) gold
3. Where will space resources help fuel future trips to?
 - a) Pluto
 - b) the Sun
 - c) another galaxy
 - d) Mars and beyond
4. What is Etienne Schneider's job?
 - a) investment analyst
 - b) minister for the economy
 - c) professor of asteroids
 - d) astronaut
5. What are "lifeless rocks" speeding through?
 - a) space
 - b) the Sun
 - c) asteroids
 - d) time
6. Who might a space village on the Moon be used by?
 - a) mining companies
 - b) Luxembourg's space tourists
 - c) professors
 - d) everyone on Earth
7. What could space resources allow greater exploration of?
 - a) the Moon
 - b) faraway galaxies
 - c) our brains
 - d) the solar system
8. What did the article say might be ahead for mining companies?
 - a) Pluto
 - b) a bright future
 - c) problems
 - d) exciting times
9. When was the Outer Space Treaty signed?
 - a) 1697
 - b) 1796
 - c) 1976
 - d) 1967
10. What did the Outer Space Treaty say space resources are part of?
 - a) the Earth
 - b) mankind's 'common heritage'
 - c) the universe
 - d) Deep Space Industries

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

Role A – Asteroids

You think an asteroid is the best place to get resources for Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Mars, the Sun or another galaxy.

Role B – Mars

You think Mars is the best place to get resources for Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): asteroids, the Sun or another galaxy.

Role C – The Sun

You think the Sun is the best place to get resources for Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Mars, asteroids or another galaxy.

Role D – Another galaxy

You think another galaxy is the best place to get resources for Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so good about their places. Also, tell the others which is the least useful of these (and why): Mars, the Sun or asteroids.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'space' and 'race'.

space	race
--------------	-------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• major• big• near• fuel• looking• aim	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• skies• law• shared• allow• ahead• 1967
---	---

ASTEROID MINING SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

Write five GOOD questions about asteroid mining in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper.
When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

ASTEROID MINING DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

- 1) What did you think when you read the headline?
- 2) What springs to mind when you hear the word 'mining'?
- 3) What mining is there in your country?
- 4) Is mining good or bad?
- 5) What do you think of the idea of asteroid mining?
- 6) Do you think asteroid mining is a good thing to invest in?
- 7) How useful could asteroid mining be?
- 8) What are the dangers of asteroid mining?
- 9) What would it be like to work as an asteroid miner?
- 10) What other things in space could we use to help the Earth?

Luxembourg to develop asteroid mining – 6th February, 2016
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ASTEROID MINING DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

- 11) Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
- 12) What do you know about Luxembourg?
- 13) What do you know about asteroids?
- 14) How might asteroid mining help the Earth?
- 15) Will countries have fights over who mines which asteroid?
- 16) Do you think there will be a space war one day?
- 17) Do you think it's ok to mine the Moon?
- 18) What kind of things do you think are in a space treaty?
- 19) Is it ok for private companies to make money from asteroids?
- 20) What would you like to ask an asteroid mining company boss?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

The (1) ____ European nation of Luxembourg is not well (2) ____ as a major player in the space race. However, its government has just made big investments in the (3) ____ industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one day help fuel (4) ____ to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and development projects to (5) ____ sure it is one of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our aim is to open access to a (6) ____ of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks speeding through space, without damaging natural habitats."

Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the (7) ____ for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama (8) ____ a law that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a research village on the Moon. This would be used as a (9) ____ for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow (10) ____ exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems (11) ____ for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part (12) ____ mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be able to mine asteroids.

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|---------------|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | (a) teeny | (b) tiny | (c) tinned | (d) tinny |
| 2. | (a) knowledge | (b) knows | (c) knowing | (d) known |
| 3. | (a) furthered | (b) future | (c) further | (d) futures |
| 4. | (a) triples | (b) triple | (c) trips | (d) tripe |
| 5. | (a) make | (b) take | (c) have | (d) do |
| 6. | (a) wealth | (b) rich | (c) fund | (d) finance |
| 7. | (a) skies | (b) cloud | (c) air | (d) airspace |
| 8. | (a) signed | (b) signature | (c) singed | (d) signage |
| 9. | (a) baste | (b) base | (c) bias | (d) basic |
| 10. | (a) grater | (b) greeter | (c) greater | (d) greats |
| 11. | (a) front | (b) leading | (c) ahead | (d) forward |
| 12. | (a) for | (b) of | (c) from | (d) off |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

Paragraph 1

1. a aromj player in the space race
2. the future tysniudr of asteroid mining
3. help fuel trips to Mars and enbody
4. research and development eorjptsc
5. mineral esrsoeurc
6. without damaging natural aattihsb

Paragraph 2

7. look up to the sseik
8. the European Space Agency shared a nosiiv
9. exploration of the solar etysms
10. there could be problems hadae
11. part of mankind's mnomoc heritage
12. parveit companies

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () signed a law that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space
- () Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the skies for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama
- () development projects to make sure it is one of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the
- () Agency shared a vision for a research village on the Moon. This would be used as a base
- () economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on
- () exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems
- () of mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be able to mine asteroids.
- () for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow greater
- () race. However, its government has just made big investments in the future industry of asteroid mining. Private
- () companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one
- () lifeless rocks speeding through space, without damaging natural habitats."
- () ahead for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part
- (**1**) The tiny European nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a major player in the space
- () day help fuel trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

1. player major a as known well Not race space the in .

2. government Its investments big made just has .

3. asteroids Private near companies the will Earth mine .

4. sure make to Projects countries leading the of one is it .

5. mineral unexplored previously of wealth A resources .

6. new places to mine Look up to the skies for .

7. look only places skies up country for to to The new the .

8. as for This used base companies be a mining would .

9. in part common Resources are mankind's space of heritage .

10. asteroids companies be mine Private not to may able .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

The tiny European *nation / national* of Luxembourg is not well *known / knowing* as a major *play / player* in the space race. However, its government has just made big investments in the future industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids *near / nearly* the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the *thing / things* they mine will one day help fuel trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research *to / and* development projects to make sure it is *one / once* of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our aim is to open *accessible / access* to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks *speed / speeding* through space, without *damaging / damage* natural habitats."

Luxembourg is not the only country to look *down / up* to the skies for new places *to / for* mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama *singed / signed* a law that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency *shared / shore* a vision for a research *village / villager* on the Moon. This would be used as a *baste / base* for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow greater exploration of the *sole / solar* system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems *heading / ahead* for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of mankind's '*common / commonly* heritage'. This means private companies may not be *ability / able* to mine asteroids.

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

Th_ t_ny __r_p__n n_t__n _f L_x_mb__rg _s n_t w_ll
kn_wn _s _m_j_r pl_y_r _n th_ sp_c_r_c_. H_w_v_r,
_ts g_v_rnm_nt h_s j_st m_d _b_g _nv_stm_nts _n th_
f_t_r_ __nd_stry _f _st_r__d m_n_ng. Pr_v_t_
c_mpn__s w_ll m_n__st_r__ds n__r th_ __rth f_r
w_t_r __nd m_n_r_ls. S_m__f th_ th_ngs th_y m_n_
w_ll _n_ d_y h_lp f__l tr_ps t_ M_rs __nd b_y_nd.
L_x_mb__rg's g_v_rnm_nt _s l__k_ng _t_r_s__rch __nd
d_v_l_pm_nt pr_j_cts t_ m_k_s_r__t_s _n__f th_
l__d_ng c__ntr__s _n th_s n_w __nd_stry. M_n_st_r_f_r
th_ _c_n_my _t__nn Schn__d_r_s__d: " __r __m_s t_
_p_n __cc_ss t_ __w__lth _f pr_v__sly _n_xpl_r_d
m_n_r_l_r_s__rc_s _n l_f_l_ss r_ck_s sp__d_ng thr__gh
sp_c_, w_th__t d_m_g_ng n_t_r_l_h_b_t_ts."

L_x_mb__rg _s n_t th_ __nly c__ntry t_ l__k _p_t th_
sk__s f_r n_w pl_c_s t_ m_n_. _n 2015, _S pr_s_d_nt
B_r_ck __b_m_s_gn_d __l_w th_t w_ll l_t _m_r_c_n
c_mpn__s m_n__sp_c_r_s__rc_s. _n J_n__ry, th_
__r_p__n Sp_c__g_ncy sh_r_d __v_s__n f_r __r_s__rch
v_ll_g__n th_ M__n. Th_s w__ld b__s_d_s __b_s_f_r
m_n_ng c_mpn__s. Th_ __S c_mpn_y D__p Sp_c_
__nd_str__s s__d sp_c_r_s__rc_s w_ll __ll_w gr__t_r
_xpl_r_t__n _f th_ s_l_r syst_m w_th__t th_ n__d t_
m_n__r_s__rc_s _n __rth. H_w_v_r, th_r_c__ld b_
pr_bl_ms __h__d f_r m_n_ng c_mpn__s. Th_ __t_r
Sp_c_ Tr__ty _f 1967 s_ys th_t n_t_r_l_r_s__rc_s _n
sp_c_ __r_p_rt _f m_nk_nd's 'c__mm_n_h_r_t_g_'. Th_s
m__ns pr_v_t_c_mpn__s m_y n_t b__bl_t_m_n_
_st_r__ds.

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1602/160206-asteroid-mining.html>

The tiny European nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a major player in the space race. However, its government has just made big investments in the future industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one day help fuel trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and development projects to make sure it is one of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks speeding through space without damaging natural habitats"

Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the skies for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama signed a law that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a research village on the Moon. This would be used as a base for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow greater exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems ahead for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be able to mine asteroids.

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

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The tiny European nation of Luxembourg is not well known as a major player in the space race. However, its government has just made big investments in the future industry of asteroid mining. Private companies will mine asteroids near the Earth for water and minerals. Some of the things they mine will one day help fuel trips to Mars and beyond. Luxembourg's government is looking at research and development projects to make sure it is one of the leading countries in this new industry. Minister for the economy Etienne Schneider said: "Our aim is to open access to a wealth of previously unexplored mineral resources on lifeless rocks speeding through space, without damaging natural habitats." Luxembourg is not the only country to look up to the skies for new places to mine. In 2015, US president Barack Obama signed a law that will let American companies mine space resources. In January, the European Space Agency shared a vision for a research village on the Moon. This would be used as a base for mining companies. The US company Deep Space Industries said space resources will allow greater exploration of the solar system without the need to mine resources on Earth. However, there could be problems ahead for mining companies. The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 says that natural resources in space are part of mankind's 'common heritage'. This means private companies may not be able to mine asteroids.

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about the US company Deep Space Industries. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. ASTEROID MINING: Make a poster about asteroid mining. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. SPACE RESOURCES: Write a magazine article about mining for space resources. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against it.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on space resources. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on how they could help us on Earth. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a F b F c T d T e F f T g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

- | | |
|--------------|------------------|
| 1. tiny | a. very small |
| 2. major | b. big |
| 3. near | c. close by |
| 4. fuel | d. power |
| 5. damaging | e. harming |
| 6. the skies | f. the heavens |
| 7. let | g. allow |
| 8. base | h. centre |
| 9. ahead | i. in the future |
| 10. common | j. public |

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. The space race
2. Minerals and water
3. Mars and beyond
4. Luxembourg's minister for the economy
5. Space
6. Mining companies
7. The solar system
8. Problems
9. 1967
10. Mankind's 'common heritage'

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. b 2. c 3. d 4. b 5. a 6. a 7. d 8. c 9. d 10. b

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)