

Resource 2

Look at the resource below, which shares more information about the Outer Space Treaty.

The Outer Space Treaty forms the basis of international space law. It was put in force on 10th October 1967. As of June 2019, 109 countries had signed the treaty.

What is the Outer Space Treaty?

The main points are as follows:

- No placing of nuclear weapons in space
- The Moon and other celestial bodies are to be used for peaceful purposes only
- Space is free for exploration by all nations
- No nation can claim or try to rule any part of outer space or any celestial body.



This image shows Hubble's Space Telescope Imaging Spectrograph, which astronauts installed in February 1997. Credit: NASA Goddard Flight Space Center.

The Outer Space Treaty was written in 1967, over 50 years ago! Some people believe that the treaty does not provide enough regulation, or the regulation is not clear enough for newer space activities such as space tourism, lunar and asteroid mining.

Do you think the 1967 Outer Space Treaty is enough? Should there be a regulatory body?

Glossary

Celestial body – any natural body outside of the Earth's atmosphere such as the Moon, Sun, other planets, asteroids etc.

Lunar – anything relating to the Moon.

Asteroid mining – mining raw materials from asteroids and minor planets. These could include minerals, precious metals, iron.