

Exploration 1

Student Activity Sheet

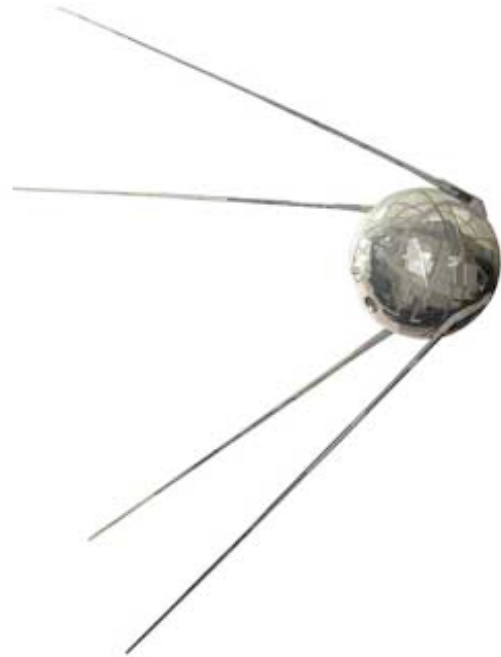
The Fever of '57

Your Exploration

Should great scientific advances such as Sputnik be for all of mankind, or for the benefit of only the people or countries who develop them?

Background

In the film, we witness a global sense of awe when Sputnik beeped overhead in the night sky. People were excited about this great scientific achievement for mankind. Man had entered a new age, the "Space Age" -- and for a fleeting moment, we were united by a common sense of possibility. Within a few days, awe turned to fear and uncertainty. It dawned on America that another country had beaten us into space and clearly had superior technology that was capable of sending a nuclear bomb to America. We had no way to defend ourselves and we became terrified. It's interesting to note that while the US and Soviets were working in secret on their Space programs, the International Geophysical Year was underway (1957-1958) and represented a great collaboration and sharing of scientific discoveries by the International scientific community for the betterment of mankind. These simultaneous events provide an opportunity to compare science used for political and defense advantage, and science used by the global community for the advancement of mankind.



Here's What to Do

Split into two groups and conduct research using the Homework Helper and other sources that you discover to answer some or all of the questions below. Write down your findings and share them with your classmates to arrive at your group's conclusions. Put a line in the middle of the blackboard and have each group write down their findings. Debate the differences and look for the similarities.

Secret Science Group – Conduct research and compile a list of scientific advances made in secret for the benefit of an individual, company or country. What advantages are there to secret science? Is secret science ever revealed, and does that ultimately benefit mankind? What is reverse-engineering?

Open Science Group – Explore scientific advances made by and for the global community. What are the advantages of sharing scientific efforts and information? What is the response of governments and political interests when they receive reports from the global scientific community? What are the advantages of this type of collaboration, sharing and reporting? Does open science ever get censored, and is that right?

Visit The Fever of '57 Homework Helper for videos and links to help you with Exploration 1.

www.thefeverof57.com