

Mysterious space object could be monitoring us

16th December, 2017



Scientists believe there is a possibility that aliens are listening to us on Earth. Astronomers from a program called Breakthrough Listen are excited about a giant, mysterious space object that has passed close to our planet. Breakthrough Listen scientists search for evidence of civilizations beyond Earth. The scientists work at the University of Hawaii. They described the object as an 800-meter-long, 80-meter-wide, cigar-shaped rock. Some scientists believe the rock has too many straight lines on it for it to be formed naturally. This suggests it could have been designed by some form of extra-terrestrial life. The scientists have dubbed the rock Oumuamua, which means 'first messenger' in the Hawaiian language.

The astronomers first spotted Oumuamua in October. It was travelling at great speed through the solar system and passed Earth at about 85 times the distance to the Moon. This is just a hair's breadth relative to the vast expanses of the universe. Oumuamua is the first object spotted in the solar system that appears to originate from another star system. The astronomers say its high speed of over 300,000 kph suggests it is outside the gravitational pull of the Sun and is instead travelling on its own path that originated in another galaxy. The scientists said it was highly unlikely that Oumuamua was a sign that aliens exist, but the huge rock and its journey was a unique event that possibly offered new secrets.

Sources:

breakthroughinitiatives.org / slate.com / scientificamerican.com

Writing

How would our life change if aliens visited us? Would it be good or bad? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

scientists / aliens / astronomers / mysterious / planet / evidence / rock / language / at great speed / solar system / distance / universe / gravitational / galaxy / secrets

True / False

- A group of scientists called Breakthrough Listen found the space object. T / F
- The scientists work at a university in Hawaii. T / F
- The rock has no straight lines and is totally curved. T / F
- The rock was given a nickname that means 'Solar Friend'. T / F
- Scientists say the rock is the size of 85 moons. T / F
- The rock is the first object in our solar system from another system. T / F
- The rock was travelling at a speed of over 300,000 kph. T / F
- The scientists said the rock was a sign that aliens existed. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| 1. possibility | a. proof |
| 2. mysterious | b. comparable |
| 3. evidence | c. made |
| 4. formed | d. noticed |
| 5. dubbed | e. emerged |
| 6. spotted | f. chance |
| 7. relative | g. singular |
| 8. vast | h. puzzling |
| 9. originated | i. huge |
| 10. unique | j. nicknamed |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- Who should aliens talk to first if they came to Earth?
- Would aliens be friends or enemies to people on Earth?
- What would you do if you found an alien in your bathroom?
- Will wars in space happen one day?
- How would you feel about visiting an alien civilization?
- What secrets could the rock have?
- What questions would you like to ask the astronomers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. there is a possibility | a. our planet |
| 2. a giant, mysterious | b. through the solar system |
| 3. passed close to | c. of extra-terrestrial life |
| 4. Some scientists believe the rock | d. originated in another galaxy |
| 5. designed by some form | e. space object |
| 6. It was travelling at great speed | f. pull of the Sun |
| 7. just a hair's breadth relative | g. that aliens are listening to us |
| 8. it is outside the gravitational | h. offered new secrets |
| 9. travelling on its own path that | i. has too many straight lines |
| 10. a unique event that possibly | j. to the vast expanses |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of astronomy?
- What would you think if aliens are listening to us?
- How much is today's life like science fiction?
- Do you hope this mysterious rock is from aliens?
- What kind of civilizations might exist in space?
- What would you want to know from an alien?
- How would you feel about aliens arriving on Earth?
- What might extra-terrestrial life look like?

Spelling

- eranormsost from a program
- a giant, umtseysiro space object
- scientists search for ideneecv
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- some form of extra-littersraer life
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- relative to the vast eesxspna of the universe
- outside the itaaalrvntogi pull of the Sun
- its own path that aongeiidtr in another galaxy
- its journey was a unieuq event

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. h	3. a	4. c	5. j
6. d	7. b	8. i	9. e	10. g

Role Play

Role A – Armageddon

You think Armageddon would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): global panic, disease or the colonization of Earth.

Role B – Global Panic

You think global panic would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): Armageddon, disease or the colonization of Earth.

Role C – Disease

You think disease would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): global panic, Armageddon or the colonization of Earth.

Role D – The Colonization of Earth

You think the colonization of Earth would be the biggest danger of aliens visiting Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their dangers wouldn't be as likely. Also, tell the others which is the least likely of these (and why): global panic, disease or Armageddon.

Speaking – Alien Dangers

Rank these with your partner. Put the biggest dangers of aliens visiting Earth at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| • inter-galactic war | • they want our resources |
| • Armageddon | • an invasion of Earth |
| • radioactivity | • something unknown |
| • global panic | • strange diseases |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.