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Scientists start huge search for ET – 17th February, 2020

Level 0

Is there life in space? Are we alone? These are big questions. Scientists will try to find if anybody is out there. Scientists have a mission, "to understand and explain the origin...of life...and the evolution of intelligence". They will scan the sky for signs of alien life. "Citizen scientists" will help real scientists to spot things.

Scientists will use radio telescopes to look for "techno-signatures" of alien life. These include chemicals, oxygen and lasers. A scientist said finding out if we are alone is one of the biggest questions in science. Another scientist said we are getting closer to finding out. She said science fiction is now "almost mainstream" science.

Level 1

Is there life in space? Are we alone? We have asked these questions for centuries. Scientists are trying to find out if anybody is out there. The researchers are from SETI (the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence). Its mission is, "to understand and explain the origin...of life...and the evolution of intelligence". Scientists will scan the sky for signs of alien life. "Citizen scientists" will use the data to spot things missed by scientists.

Scientists will use giant radio telescopes to look for "techno-signatures" of alien life. These include chemicals, large amounts of oxygen, non-natural structures, and lasers. It is the first time a project will search the entire sky. An astronomer said finding out if we are alone, "is among the [biggest] questions in science". Another scientist said we are getting closer to finding out if aliens exist. She said science fiction is now "almost mainstream" science.

Level 2

Is there life on other planets? Are we alone? These are two questions we have asked for centuries. Now, scientists are searching to find out if there is anybody out there. The researchers are from the SETI Institute. SETI stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Its mission is, "to explore, understand and explain the origin and nature of life in the universe and the evolution of intelligence". Scientists will use new technology to scan the sky for signs of alien life. They will share their data with the public. "Citizen scientists" could spot things missed by scientists.

Astronomers will use giant radio telescopes to search for alien life. They are located all over the world. It is the first time for a project to search the entire sky for alien life. The signs are called "techno-signatures". These include alien chemicals, large amounts of oxygen, non-natural structures, and laser light. An astronomer said: "Determining whether we are alone in the universe...is among the [biggest] questions in science." Another scientist said we are getting closer to finding out if alien life exists. She said this science is no longer fiction, but "almost mainstream".

Level 3

Is there life on other planets? Are we alone? These are two of the biggest questions humans have been asking for centuries. Now, scientists have launched a new search to find out if there is... anybody... out there. The researchers are from the SETI Institute in California. SETI stands for Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. The mission of SETI is, "to explore, understand and explain the origin and nature of life in the universe and the evolution of intelligence". SETI scientists will use new technologies to scan the heavens for signs of alien life. They will share their data with the public. SETI hopes that by sharing data, "citizen scientists" could spot things missed by scientists.

SETI's astronomers will use 28 giant radio telescopes in their search for alien life. The telescopes are located all around the world. It will be the first time that a project will search the entire sky for signs of alien life. The signs they are looking for are called "techno-signatures". These include things like alien chemicals, large amounts of oxygen, non-natural structures, and light from lasers. Astronomer Dr Tony Beasley said: "Determining whether we are alone in the universe as technologically capable life is among the most compelling questions in science." Another scientist, Jill Tarter, said we are getting closer to finding out if alien life exists. She said this science is now no longer fiction, but "almost mainstream".