



A3N6C9

UNIT - 4

My Point of View

ACTIVITY - 1

Over 100 UFOs Sighted in India

DNA | Monday, Nov 5, 2012, 19:49 IST | Place: New Delhi | Agency: PTI

Army troops in India have reported more than 100 sightings of 'Unidentified Flying Objects' (UFOs) in the last three months.

Agencies, including the Army, DRDO, NTRO, and the ITBP, have not yet been able to identify these luminous flying objects. Some local people believe they are extraterrestrials who've come to earth from outer space.

Army officials said that the 17 Corps has sent reports to the Army Headquarters about the sightings of UFOs by an ITBP unit.

Reports suggested that these yellowish spheres appear to lift off from the horizon and slowly traverse the sky for three to five hours before disappearing.

The officials confirmed that these UFOs were not planes or satellites.

They said Army had also moved a mobile ground-based radar unit and a spectrum analyser to verify the identity of the object but could not detect the object that was being tracked visually, indicating it was non-metallic.

Army officials expressed concern over the inability of agencies to identify the objects. Some believed they could be surveillance equipment or weather instruments.

Sources said that similar reports were made five or six years ago about sightings of such objects, but the matter was never taken up at higher levels.

Look at the last line of the article. It says,

“Sources said that similar reports were made five or six years ago”

Newspaper reports often use the word “source” or “sources” without identifying the name of the source, because sometimes people do not want their names published in the newspaper.

Sometimes these are identified as “anonymous sources” which just means “sources who don't want to be named”.

If your words were published in a newspaper, would you want to publish your name or would you be “anonymous”?

Help line

This reading is derived from a PTI article published in November, 2012.



ACTIVITY - 2

UFO stands for “unidentified flying object”. What does “unidentified” mean?



CC BY 2.0, " BY 2.0 image, by Jonas Smith <http://www.flickr.com/photos/jonassmith/42988499/>

Can you identify this flying object?

What do you think it is?

Work with a partner or group. Create an explanation for the photo. What is the object? Where did it come from? Why is it there?

Share your explanation with your classmates. Listen for new ideas of what might be happening in the photo. Write one idea you heard from a classmate that you think is interesting.

My classmate, named _____ had an interesting idea. It is

My classmate, named _____, had an interesting idea. It is _____

ACTIVITY-3

Although UFO just means that a flying object has not been identified, many people think of UFOs as spaceships that come from outer space bringing intelligent beings. They call these beings extraterrestrials. **What do the word parts “extra” and “terrestrial” mean?**

We know for sure that UFOs exist, because “UFO” simply means “objects in the sky that we can’t identify when we first see them”, but we do not know if extraterrestrials exist. People have many different points of view about extraterrestrials.

The 2012, DNA article, “Over 100 UFOs Sighted in India”, mentions several different points of view about the possible identification of the UFOs.

What are the different possible explanations for the UFOs that are mentioned in the article?

Write one sentence that tells what you think is true about extraterrestrials. You might consider one or more of these questions as you answer: Are the UFOs in the DNA article extraterrestrials? Do extraterrestrials exist in outer space? Have they ever been on earth? Should scientists look for extraterrestrials?

Share your sentence with your classmates. Listen to your classmates’ sentences. From your classmates’ sentences, gather information to fill the table. For the last row, quote the most interesting idea you hear from a classmate. Write down your classmate’s name and words.

How many people believe...?			
	Yes	No	Maybe
...the UFOs in the DNA article are extraterrestrials?			
...extraterrestrials exist in outer space?			
...they have been on earth?			
...scientists should look for extraterrestrials?			
The most interesting idea was by _____ who said			

You now have information about your point of view and about the points of view of other people. You can write a paragraph that has the same structure as “Chaos Reigns as Traffic Rules Are Ignored” by Jatin Singh and “The Blind Men and the Elephant”, by John Godfrey Saxe.

Use the data you gathered from your classmates and the paragraph to help you write about what you think is true about extraterrestrials.



People have different beliefs about extraterrestrials. In my class, most people think

Some people think

A few people think

One interesting idea came from _____, who said,

“ _____ ”.

I think

ACTIVITY -4

UFOs in India: Planes or Planets?

India News Today, Published: July 26, 2013

NEW DELHI: BBC News reported Friday that the Indian army reportedly has spent six months watching what they thought might be airplanes or satellites. Now it appears that they may have been watching the rising and setting each night of Jupiter and Venus.

According to the Calcutta-based newspaper, Telegraph, authorities say 329 sightings of unidentified objects were documented over a lake in the patrolled region between last August and February.

Military sources say the objects seemed to regularly rise from the horizon and slowly cross the sky.

Army lance naik Manmohan Singh reported that he had noticed a delay of four minutes in the appearance of one of the objects each consecutive day. Singh also said that the objects seemed to be the brightest lights in the sky and always appeared to move with respect to the stars.

Army officials asked the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIAP), Bangalore, to identify the objects. “Our task was to determine whether these unidentified objects were celestial or terrestrial,” astronomer, Tushar Prabhu, told the newspaper.

The IIAP team told the Indian Army how to record data about the sightings. Using this data as a source of information, the team of astronomers concluded that the objects observed were the planets, Jupiter and Venus.

The IIAP team said stars and planets over the horizon appear very bright because of increased atmospheric transparency at the high altitude and that both Jupiter and Venus at the time were the brightest planets in the sky.

But not everyone accepts the IIAP findings. Local farmers have said that they have videotaped objects that do not seem to be planets. UFO experts are saying that there have been so many UFO sightings in the area that there may be an underground UFO base in the area.

ACTIVITY - 5

Write a summary of “UFOs in India: Planes or Planets?” that

- 1) is about a source.
- 2) is neutral.
- 3) references the source.
- 4) starts with the main idea of the source.
- 5) contains a few details that show how the author expresses the main idea.

Remember to

- 1) Read and understand the source.
- 2) Reference the source and write the main idea in one or two sentences.
- 3) Add a few details (3-4 sentences) that best show how the author expressed the main idea.

Help line

The reading is derived from newspaper accounts with facts and names edited to provide additional content for instructional purposes.

ACTIVITY - 6

The main idea of the short article, “UFOs in India: Planes or Planets?” is that UFOs have been sighted and there are different ideas about what they might be. The article expresses its main idea by gathering information from a number of different sources. Each source gives different information about the UFO sightings. Read the article carefully and record the information that each source gives.

Source	Information
BBC News	
Authorities	
Telegraph	
Military sources	
Army lance naik Manmohan Singh	
Army officials	
Tushar Prabhu	
IIAP team	
Farmers	
UFO experts	

Check your list with your classmates. Help everyone in the class find all the information from each source.

ACTIVITY - 7

The following sentences use verbs that are in “passive voice”. There are many reasons for using passive voice. One reason we might use passive voice for a verb is that we want to make the person doing the action of the verb seem less important.

For example:

Jitendra wrecked the car.

“Wrecked” is active voice and the person who did the wrecking is obvious.

The car was wrecked.

“Was wrecked” is passive voice, and we don’t know who wrecked the car.

Decide if the sentences are active or passive.

	Write A for Active. P for Passive.
A meeting for high-level officials is scheduled later this month.	
Agencies have not been able to identify these luminous flying objects.	
He was asked if these people have provided strong evidence.	
Hundreds of UFOs or alien aircraft have been sighted inside the Indian Territory.	
It was believed that the extraterrestrials might be sending the UFOs.	
Many sightings of unidentified objects were documented.	
Many such incidents have been reported in the last year.	
The army flew a drone in the direction of the floating objects.	
The measurements were taken and sent to the IIAP.	
The radar could not detect these objects.	
The signals could not be received.	
We are worried that there may be a problem.	

ACTIVITY-8

Read this interview with Carl Sagan, a respected scientist, as he discusses his point of view on the subject of extraterrestrial life. As you read, underline any words that are new for you. After you read, ask your classmates, use a dictionary, or ask your teacher for help with words you don't know. Help everyone in your class understand the reading.

The interviewer asked Dr. Sagan to give his views on the existence of intelligent extraterrestrials and the many sightings and reports from people who say that they have seen these beings on earth.

Carl Sagan: I personally have been captured by the notion of extraterrestrial life, and especially extraterrestrial intelligence, from childhood. It swept me up, and I've been involved in sending space craft to nearby planets to look for life and in the radio search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

[If we found intelligent life on other planets,] it would be an absolutely transforming event in human history. But, the stakes are so high on whether it's true or false that we must demand the more rigorous standards of evidence. ...we have to be very careful.

I'm frequently... [asked] how could I search for extraterrestrial intelligence and disbelieve that we're being visited. I don't see any contradiction at all. [The idea of being visited is] a wonderful prospect, but requires the most severe and rigorous standards of evidence.

The interviewer asked Dr. Sagan to comment on the stories that people have told of being abducted, or kidnapped, by extraterrestrials. He was asked if these people have provided strong evidence for extraterrestrials having visited earth.

Carl Sagan: [The evidence] is almost entirely anecdote. Someone says something happened to them, and people can say anything. The fact that someone says something doesn't mean it's true....

To be taken seriously, you need physical evidence that can be examined ... by skeptical scientists: [for example] a scraping of the whole ship, and the discovery that it contains...elements that don't exist on Earth.

But there's no scrapings [or other evidence]. All there are are stories. There are instances of disturbed soil, but I can disturb soil with a shovel. There are instances of people claiming to flash lights at UFOs and the UFOs flash back. But, pilots of airplanes can also flash back, especially if they think it would be a good joke to play on the UFO enthusiast. So, that does not constitute good evidence.

Dr. Sagan discusses the need for "physical evidence." Sagan says that "physical evidence" is needed to show that something is waiting to be known.

- Carl Sagan

ANBODOR: a story based on personal experience

Does Dr. Sagan think that an anecdote is good evidence?

NEW WORDS?

CONTRADICTION

SCRAPING

List other new words that you need help understanding. Ask your classmates and check a dictionary before asking your teacher for help.



ACTIVITY -9

In this unit, you have explored many ideas. In Activity 3, you gave your own point of view about extraterrestrial life and listened to the points of view of your classmates.

In Activity 5 and 6, you summarized “UFOs in India: Planes or Planets?” and you looked carefully at the information that the different sources in “UFOs in India: Planes or Planets?” provided about the sightings in India.

Finally, in Activity 8, you read an interview with Carl Sagan, a respected scientist, about the kind of evidence that would be needed to show that extraterrestrial life exists. **Remember that “evidence” is information that convinces us something is true.**

“Evidence” is facts that show clearly that something exists or is true.

Evidence is information that we can use to help explain why we think what we think.

When we give our opinion or idea, people often ask why we believe what we do. One way that we answer “Why?” is with information and facts from different sources.

Use everything you have learned and thought about to answer the following questions:

- 1) What do you think the Indian Army truly saw?

- 2) Which information did you learn from the sources in “UFOs in India: Planes or Planets?” can you use as evidence that your idea is true?

Use the paragraph to help you write about your ideas. Add as many sources and as much information as you need for your evidence!

I think that the UFOs seen by the Indian Army can be identified as

Evidence for my idea can be found in the information given by

The information provided was



ACTIVITY - 10

The universe is such a huge place that many people think there must be other life somewhere in it just because it's so huge.

The universe is so huge that it must be measured in light-years. Light is the fastest thing we know. It travels at 299,792,458 meters per second.

Our sun is 8.33 **light-minutes** away, meaning it takes the light from the sun 8.33 minutes to reach us. Imagine how far away a **light-year** must be!

The most distant part of the universe that scientists have evidence of comes from light that has taken 14 billion years to reach us. It is **14 billion light-years** away and there may be many more universes farther away than that!

As Carl Sagan said, "Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known."

Imagine what incredible beings might live 14 billion light-years away from us! They would live so far away that it would take 14 billion years for the light from their sun to reach earth!

What might these beings look like? What abilities would they have? Are they intelligent? Do they have language? Do they have homes or shelters? What would they like? What would they need? Do they eat? Do they have emotions?

Use these questions to get you started thinking about a being that lives 14 billion light-years from earth.

Work with a partner, group, or alone to describe your being.

One light-second is
299,792.458 kms.

One light-minute is
17,987,547.5 kms

The nearest star is
Proxima Centauri
and it is

4.243 light-years
away from earth.



Share your being with classmates and enjoy their beings as well. It's a huge universe. There is room for every being you can imagine!