

UKS2 – Assembly Plan 2

Who owns space?

Can anyone own space, or is it for everyone?

Preparation:

- Images of countries' flags on the Moon, rockets from different nations, Starlink satellites
- Short video clip of astronauts from different countries working together on the ISS
- Printouts of key words: ownership, cooperation, exploration
- Optional: small globe or inflatable planet to pass around
- Music suggestion: Interstellar Theme or Across the Stars (Star Wars)

1	Welcome and Introduction (3 minutes): Ask: “If you plant a flag on the Moon, does it mean you own it?” Say: “Today we’re exploring the idea of space ownership — can anyone own the Moon, Mars, or space itself?” Introduce the big question: Who owns space?
2	Example 1 – The Space Race and Planting Flags (5 minutes): Explain how the USA was the first country to land on the Moon in 1969. They planted a flag — but did they claim the Moon? Clarify: Planting a flag doesn’t mean you own the land (unlike explorers in the past). Mention: The Outer Space Treaty of 1967 — signed by over 100 countries — says space belongs to everyone.
3	Example 2 – Space Cooperation Today (5 minutes): Talk about the International Space Station (ISS). • Built by many countries • Shared space research • Astronauts from different nations live and work together Ask: “Why is this cooperation important?”

4	Example 3 – Modern Challenges in Space (5 minutes): Space is getting busy with: • Satellites (like Starlink) • Private space companies (SpaceX, Blue Origin) • Plans to mine the Moon or visit Mars Ask: “If one company sends rockets all the time, is that fair to others?”
5	Interactive Moment (6 minutes): Hold a “space debate”: “Should countries be allowed to own land on the Moon?” Ask for a few hands on either side. Encourage respectful discussion. Alternative activity: Pass around a ball/globe. Whoever holds it says one way we could share space fairly.
6	Optional Inspiring Video (4 minutes): Play a short clip of astronauts from different countries working together on the ISS. NASA or ESA offer excellent educational footage of cooperation in orbit.
7	Conclusion (3 minutes): Summarise: • No one owns space — it’s for all humanity • Working together makes space safer and more useful Say: “We share Earth — and we should share space too.”

Reflection

Ask children to imagine a future where people live on other planets.

“What rules would you create to make sure space stays peaceful and fair?”

Music

Interstellar Theme

Across the Stars (from Star Wars)

Calm instrumental space tracks

Cross-Curricular Links:

Science: Space law, exploration, ethics of space travel

PSHE: Fairness, cooperation, global citizenship

Geography: Space as part of global understanding

English: Debate writing or discussion text: “Who should control space?”