**Aliens**

<http://prezi.com/kzsemyw87aw9/do-aliens-exist/>

Monty Python Galaxy Song

**Do Aliens Exist?**

**Yes** or **No**

If you’re thinking of **little green men**

**What do we mean by life on other planets?**

Well it all comes down to **this**, the elementary table

Or rather **this**, H2O, or in other words **water**

We know that there is water on **Mars**

And that the frozen world of one of **Jupiter’s Moons ‘Europa’** is covered in ice

Which could be enough to sustain life such as **bacteria**.

In fact everywhere that scientists have looked for life on Earth they have found it, including **methane worms**, which live in frozen/solid methane, (or frozen farts) at the bottom of oceans.

But if were looking for **intelligent** life, what is intelligent?

Is a **dog** intelligent?

Are **humans** intelligent?

Well, in terms of alien intelligence it comes down to this: **radio** communication

The first time that humans broadcast radio signals strong enough to leave the planet was at the **1936 Berlin Olympics**

And that was **only 75 years ago**

Consider that in the perspective of **2,500,000** years that humans have existed, **65,000,000** that the dinosaurs were around, **4.5 billion** years ago that the Earth formed or **14.5 billion** years ago that the universe began

When contacting other words the important factor is the speed of **light**, or the **distance travelled by light in a year**, or in other words **this many** times the distance to our Sun.

Our **closest star** is here, but that is **this far away** meaning that if we sent a message today… then we would have to wait 7 years for a reply, at best.

Mathematicians have developed an **equation,** The Drake Equation, for determining the possible number of civilizations in the galaxy with which communication may be possible and the **Hubble Space Telescope** has supported this with images such as **this one** in which every single dot that you see is a galaxy consisting of millions of stars. These images have helped astronomers to estimate that there are around 80 billion galaxies in the universe.

Of course, if aliens did exist there would be difficult questions for **religion** to answer: the very first paragraph of the **bible** states “**In the beginning**… the **Earth**” but makes no reference to all of the other possible life supporting planets.

Another person answering difficult questions is **Stephen Hawking**, one of the worlds leading cosmologists.

But **does it really matter anyway?**

Well, apparently yes, as governments are willing to spend money on projects such as **the SETI project** and the **Keplar Telescope** which is discovering more and more exoplanets daily, that is planets orbiting other stars and crucially planets in the **goldilocks zone** – at the distance away from stars which is neither too hot nor too cold.

The Voyager probes, launched in the 1970’s carry **this golden disc** of messages just in case they ever reach an alien civilization and then there was **the Aricebo message**, broadcast in binary that may one day reach another world.

But **what if we are contacted**? How should we respond?

Well, if Hollywood has anything to do with it they would suggest either **mass hysteria and chaos**, such as in Carl Sagan’s film ‘Contact’, or that we should just **shoot at them** such as in ‘The Day the Earth Stood Still’

So does it matter, well **yes, if we don’t care** for **our planet**.

To conclude, **do they exist** – **likely**

Will there be **contact in our lifetime** – **probably not**

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