

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**U.S. Military Intentions in Outer Space are Focus of U.N. Debate**, 02/13/08

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/space\\_2-13.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/space_2-13.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. **What issue has heightened tensions recently between Russia and the United States?**

2. **What did Russia and China propose this week?**

3. **What is the National Space Policy?**

4. **Why are some people critical of the National Space Policy?**

5. **Why are satellites important?**

6. **What is an ASAT?**

**7. What role does Poland play in this debate?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. What do you think? Should the United States sign a United Nations treaty banning all space weapons? Why or why not?**

**2. Research the "Star Wars" program of the 1980s. Why was this program started? Why was it stopped? What other historical events impacted this program?**

**3. Research the role of satellites in your daily life. How do you imagine your daily life would be different if satellites did not exist? Would your life be better or worse? Why or why not?**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra ([extra@newshour.org](mailto:extra@newshour.org)). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.