Welcome to Decisions, Decisions: Colonization! You and your classmates will all be role-playing the same character: the President of the United States. To help you make decisions, you have four advisors, represented in the different Advisor Briefing Books. You are responsible for sharing the information in this book with your teammates. Use your Decisions Log (provided by your teacher) and the outline below to guide you through the decision-making process.

**Analyze the Situation**
- Watch the introduction on the computer.
- Read The Situation on pages 5–6.
- Read the Letter from Your Advisor and the Summary on pages 7–9.

**Determine Your Goals**
- Read pages 10–11, and then follow the directions on page 12 to prioritize your goals.
- Enter your goals into the computer and get ready to make your decisions.

**Consider Your Options**
- The computer will give you a keyword that matches one of the briefings found on pages 13–22.
- Read the briefings and share the information with your group.

**Make a Decision**
- Discuss your options with your group. When ready, enter your decision into the computer.

**Examine the Consequences**
- The computer will display the consequences of each decision and direct you back to this briefing book for more information.

It's the future, and a worldwide energy shortage threatens the planet.

Many nations have turned to space in the search for new **resources***, setting off to **colonize** new worlds.

The United States, however, has been left behind.

But now, the Astro Company has offered to set up a private colony in space.

The company needs government approval and support for its proposal.

But should a private company or the government control such a colony?

Or, for that matter, can you find everything you need right here on Earth?

You're the President, and it's an election year. What should you do?

* Words in bold are defined in the glossary starting on page 23.
Cast of Characters and Countries

You — President of the United States.
The Astro Company — a company that wants to search for new energy resources in outer space. Astro is asking you to help the company establish a colony there.
The colonists — the people who will become inhabitants of any colony you establish in space.
Rival nations — countries around the world who are competing to find new energy resources. Will one of these countries gain control of the world’s energy supply?

Your Four Advisors:

Rick Armstrong — A historian, Rick Armstrong is the author of several books on using history to improve decision-making.
Zoë Louie — This independent economist has given sound advice to several Presidents.
Eddie MacMurray — Mr. MacMurray is your Secretary of Commerce and a long-time advisor.
Yelena Krechenko — As your Secretary of Space Exploration, Ms. Krechenko is one of the world’s top experts in this field.

Now...

Read the Letter and Summary from your advisor on pages 7–9 and then turn to page 10 to determine your goals.

U.S. Historical Society
P.O. Box 14783
New York, NY 01103

To the President,
I know you have a lot on your mind — your reelection campaign, the race for new energy resources, and the colonization of space.
I just want to remind you that I’m here to help. I’ve been a loyal advisor of yours for years, and I’ll give you as much assistance as I can.
I’m sure my colleagues will stick with you as well. As you work your way through this tough situation, we will be there to help you.
In fact, I’ve prepared a summary of the situation which should help you prepare to meet the challenges ahead. Read our advice. It’s helped you in the past; it will help you now.

Looking ahead to the future,

Rick Armstrong
It’s hard to believe that another energy crisis has come upon us so soon! Back in the 20th century, the nation struggled through an energy crisis, and now in the 21st century, the nations of the world are facing yet another severe energy crisis. This one looks pretty serious. The United States has almost completely used up its supplies of oil, gas, and coal. The price of energy has been going up, up, and UP! What will happen to the U.S.? I know a lot of people are afraid.

I’m sure you’re aware that some nations have started looking for energy resources in outer space. China, Russia, and many European nations have developed sophisticated space programs. They have sent groups of people to colonize planets and asteroids. Any nation that discovers rich deposits of oil or a new energy resource will have an advantage over other countries.

Should the United States join this new space race? You’re the President, so it’s up to you to decide. You could join the crowd and look for energy resources in space. Certainly, some people feel that if the U.S. does not find its own sources of energy, it will become dependent on other nations. The U.S. might even be forced to ask its rivals for energy resources. We’d be much better off if we had control over the world’s energy resources. This would give the nation an international energy advantage. Historically, control of energy has been very valuable.

But there’s another issue involved in colonizing space: national security. Are foreign nations setting up military forces in space? If so, the U.S. might not be able to protect itself.

I have to say that I’m not so sure that space is the answer to our energy problems. After all, space could turn out to be a wasteland. We would be throwing away taxpayers’ money by sending expeditions to empty planets and asteroids. We might be better off spending that money on developing new sources of energy right here on Earth.

You do have one other option. A group of adventurous businesspeople has started a company called the Astro Company. The owners of Astro have a plan for setting up a colony in space. They will pay for the colony and provide a spaceship, colonists, and supplies. They want you to approve their plan. They also want to use a launching site in the United States to launch their spaceship. This plan could save the country a lot of money. However, I’m not sure you should allow a private company to establish a colony in space. Do you want these businesspeople controlling such a valuable national resource?

You face a lot of tough decisions. But remember, if you don’t get reelected, you won’t be able to make any of them.
Determine Your Goals

Before you start making decisions, take some time to think about what you hope to accomplish. In your position as President of the United States, you have four goals which are listed below. Bearing in mind my comments from the previous pages and your other advisors’ opinions, think about which of these goals is most important to you. Then put the goals in order, from most to least important.

A. Get control of energy resources.
Right now, the United States must rely on foreign nations for its energy resources. Part of fulfilling this goal is making the U.S. energy-independent. You must make sure that the U.S. has energy resources so that we will not need to buy these resources from other countries. To fulfill all of this goal, though, you must do more than that. You must make sure the U.S. gets new energy resources which other nations do not have. This will put the U.S. in a much more powerful position in the world and give us an advantage over our rivals. It doesn’t matter whether you find energy on Earth or in space, just as long as you get control of more energy.

B. Protect your nation and citizens wherever they are. Keep the U.S. safe from all attacks.
Achieving this goal means keeping U.S. citizens safe, whether they’re in outer space or at home on Earth. Foreign nations are establishing colonies in space. Some of your citizens worry that these nations may become more powerful than the United States. They fear the country might not be able to protect itself against attacks from space. If you send colonists into space, how will you protect them?

C. Get reelected as President of the United States.
The main question facing you in this goal is, What will impress the voters of the nation? You must appear to be taking strong action to prove that you are a good leader. But what actions do your voters want you to take? Do they support the colonization of space? Or do they want you to spend money on developing Earth’s resources? How much are they willing to spend on these projects? It’s difficult to know the answers.

D. Spend money wisely. Don’t waste the taxpayers’ money.
At first glance, this goal seems easy to accomplish: just don’t spend any money. But how will you achieve your other goals without spending money? You can spend as much money as you want and still give yourself full credit for reaching this goal, as long as you spend the money wisely. The key to success is paying for projects that actually provide energy resources and benefit the nation. But how can you be sure that your efforts will pay off?
Now...

- Use your Decisions Log to guide you through the decision-making process.
- Consider what each goal means to you.
- On your Decisions Log, rank the goals in order from most important to least important.
- Share your rankings with your group, and together agree upon a set of priorities.
- When you’re ready, enter them into the computer. You will then see a recap of your situation and the choices facing you.
- Next, the on-screen advisors will point you to a passage in this briefing book. Look it up (they’re listed alphabetically), read it, and summarize the information for the others in your group. Then discuss the issues and make a decision.

Good luck!

Advisor Briefings

Colonies

From the 16th to the 18th centuries, European powers followed an economic policy known as mercantilism. According to this theory, in order for a nation to be powerful, it must export more than it imports. When a country exports, or sells things to other countries, it brings wealth in, and when it imports, or buys things from other countries, it spends its wealth. If a country brings in more wealth than it spends, it increases its wealth.

This theory encouraged the European powers to develop colonies around the world. They hoped to get valuable resources from their colonies. The mother country would then no longer have to import those goods from foreign nations. This would make the mother country more powerful. Can you see why the English colonies were restricted to trading only with England? How does the theory of mercantilism apply to your situation?

Energy

What does it mean for a country to be dependent on other groups or nations? Let me give you an example. Throughout the 20th century, the world, including the United States, depended on oil for its energy. One of the main sources of oil has been the Middle East. For a long time, that didn’t cause any problems. U.S. companies could operate as they pleased in the
Middle-Eastern oil-producing nations. Energy was plentiful and cheap. However, political changes in the Middle East created conflicts between several Arab countries and the United States. Many of the leaders of these oil-producing nations decided to join together so that they could control this vital resource to their advantage. They formed the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

In the 1970s, many of OPEC's members agreed not to sell oil to the United States until the country changed some of its policies. This oil embargo drove the price of oil up and put the United States on the verge of an energy crisis. The U.S. refused to give in to OPEC's demands and worked hard to become independent from the rest of the world for its energy needs. You must never let an independent group control your access to important resources. You never know when that group might turn against you. But how should you attempt to avoid it in this situation?

**Market**

What does Astro Company mean when it says it wants to put the resource on the world market? Let me explain. Astro wants to offer the resource to all countries, not just the United States. Of course, Astro doesn't have to sell to all countries; it can sell to the country that offers the highest price. You see, if the resource is truly valuable, many nations will compete for it, offering to pay higher and higher prices. This is called an open trading system, and we might end up paying a fortune! In addition, all nations, even your rivals, will have equal access to this valuable resource. Don't you want to have total control over a new energy resource? Do you want to share it with other countries?

**Military**

Military strength is an important part of maintaining a colonial empire. You need to protect your colonies and the ships carrying goods between the colonies and the mother country. England used its navy to protect its colonies, and this military challenge made England the most powerful country in the New World. You must use military force carefully, though. How and when should you use your military? How will other nations respond if you use military power to expand your boundaries? Consider these questions carefully before making your decision.

**Last Chance**

I just want to remind you that this is your last chance to take action before the election. Think carefully about what you want to do. Examine your choices closely and imagine what the consequences of each decision might be. Also, don't forget your goals. Which of the available options will lead you closer to achieving your top goal?
Militia

I’m not going to suggest which action you should choose, but I do want to tell you a little bit more about the situation. Like the American colonies of the 17th and 18th centuries, your colony has a militia. A militia is an army made up of citizens, not professional soldiers. They use weapons only in emergency situations. The New England colonists had minutemen, citizens who would be ready to fight on a minute’s notice. How strong is your colony’s militia? You don’t know for sure. But remember, America’s colonial forces were strong enough to defeat England in the American Revolution.

Natives

You never expected to find a native civilization in this new world, but now your colonists have found evidence of one. What do you suppose these natives are like? We have created all sorts of visions about invaders from outer space. The creatures we have imagined are probably not much different from the ones dreamt up by people during the Age of Exploration. Sailors told tales of headless men in Africa, giants in South America, and sea serpents in distant waters. What did the European colonists think when they first met an “Indian” — dressed in almost no clothing, with skin a different color from theirs and speaking a strange language?

Do you think the 16th century Europeans thought of “Indians” in the same way as we think of “martians” today?

Options

I want to explain what your choices mean. If you decide to give a loan to the Astro Company, the company will continue to control the colony. The loan might help the colony succeed, but if Astro fails, you may lose your money. Another choice you can make is to take over the colony. Kings often took over colonies that were having financial difficulties, and many joint-stock colonies did run out of money. If you choose not to give Astro aid, you don’t know what will happen. Astro may be able to succeed on its own, but it may not. It might turn to another government for loans. Which choice do you think will give you the best results?

Pressures

Imagine being part of a colonial expedition in the 16th century. You arrive in a strange new land filled with plants and people you’ve never seen before. The seeds you brought over from your home country won’t grow in this new soil. You need tools, weapons, and other supplies. What would you do? How would you survive?

Now imagine you’re part of a colony in outer space. You would need to get supplies of basic necessities, like air and water.
How would you get them? Like the early colonists, the space colonists must depend on the **mother country** to send them supplies until they are able to make things for themselves. Because the colonists depend on the U.S., it will be easy for you to put pressure on them. You could threaten to cut off their supplies or supply routes if they don’t do what you want. You could also promise them improved equipment and security, as well as greater amounts of money for what they sell. In fact, you can put pressure on the colony in many ways without taking military action. But how well do you think these tactics will work?

**Primitive**

What does “primitive” mean to you? It isn’t the word I’d use to describe the natives’ civilization, but it’s certainly one that’s been used before when two cultures meet. I wonder exactly what it means.

I understand that the culture you have found on the **asteroid** does not appear to have the same advanced level of technology as you do. But does that mean that the inhabitants are savages, or stupid, or inferior? Their culture is different from yours, and it will take time for you to find out about their ways. Maybe you’ll discover that they have a lot of valuable knowledge about this asteroid that could help you.

Should you take over their territory? Your weapons are more powerful than theirs, so it would probably be easy. But is it the right thing to do?

**Rights**

Let me explain exactly what the Astro Company is asking for. Astro recognizes that the area it claims in space will belong to the United States. The government will own it. However, the company wants to benefit, too. After all, it’s paying for everything. It feels that its colony should control the land and any **resources** it discovers, for 100 years. After that time, the government can do whatever it wants with the territory. That means if the colonists find a rich source of energy, Astro will completely control that resource for the next 100 years. No one else will be able to mine it or sell it for profit! Do you think that’s a fair deal?

**Roanoke**

Finding the right spot to establish a colony can be difficult. Many of the 16th and 17th century colonies and colonists in the New World didn’t survive. Consider Sir Walter Raleigh’s colony on Roanoke Island. After his first attempt at colonization failed, Raleigh sent a second group in 1586. Two years later, when a supply ship arrived at the colony, the sailors found the place deserted. They could not find any people or bodies, only the word “Croatoan” carved on a post. No one knows what the word means or what happened to the colonists.
It remains a mystery to this day. Other colonies had their problems as well. By 1624, approximately 6,000 English people had gone to Virginia. However, the population was still only 1,200, because almost 5 out of 6 colonists had either died or returned home. Do you think the space colonists have chosen a bad location? What should they do?

Site

Launching a spaceship for a colonizing expedition is not a simple task. It is expensive and requires a lot of preparation. No individual or company alone could afford to pay for everything. Even if Astro pays for the spaceship and the supplies, it will still need to use a nation’s launch site since it would cost too much for the company to build its own. The company also needs the kind of protection that only a nation can offer. What do you think would have happened to the American colonies if they had not been under the protection of the British Navy and Army? Who would have respected the boundaries of independent, private colonies?

Spices

Your situation isn’t much different from the one that sparked the Age of Exploration and Colonization in the 15th and 16th centuries. In those days, one of the vital resources people were looking for was spices. Actually, the European nations knew that they could get spices in the Far East, but it was very expensive to travel there. They had to travel overland for part of the trip and then switch to ships. Each country that they had to pass through had its own rules and taxes on trading. Importing spices got to be quite costly. These costs prompted many explorers to search for new and less expensive ways of getting spices. Do you know why spices were so important? They were used on meat, which was often partially spoiled because there was no refrigeration. Without the spices, the meat didn’t taste good enough for people to eat.

Strategy

At this point, you have a military base and colony on an asteroid that is particularly valuable for its strategic location. In the past, nations have often sought to control areas of the world just because of their location. For example, the Philippines does not offer a wealth of natural resources, but it has been important because it gives the United States a military base in the Pacific Ocean. This base is close to Japan, China, and Russia, all of which are, or have been, rival powers of the United States. Such bases are important because they can help a country control trade routes or improve national defense. How important do you think it is to keep a strategic base in space?
Who Goes

The question before you now is whether you should make this expedition a military or a civilian one. Should you send the military and concentrate on finding a safe spot for a colony? Or should you send civilians, such as explorers and scientists, who will search for new energy resources? Would a scientist have the same goals and make the same judgments as an admiral in a space fleet? This is a difficult decision. Remember, rival nations have already begun establishing colonies in space. Should your first step be to establish a military base in outer space, or should you set up a colony in the best available location? It’s up to you, but either choice will be very expensive.

Who Owns

It seems to me that there are a lot of unanswered questions about the use and colonization of outer space. Who owns space? What does it mean when a nation “claims” a planet or moon or asteroid? Does it get the whole thing or just part of it? The United States was the first nation to land a man on the Earth’s Moon. Does that mean that the Moon belongs to us? The early explorers and colonizers of the 15th, 16th, and 17th centuries faced similar kinds of questions. How did they answer them?

ally — a country or state which has agreed to support another in a treaty or other special arrangement.

England is one of America’s closest allies.

asteroid — one of the thousands of small planets located between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter.

Some scientists believe that the asteroids are pieces of a planet that blew apart.

balance of trade — the difference between the total amount of a country’s imports and exports during a specific period of time.

In order to have a favorable balance of trade, more money must come into a country than the country spends. The country must export more than it imports.

border dispute — a conflict between two or more states about boundaries.

The United States has had numerous border disputes with both its neighbors, Canada and Mexico.

charter — a written agreement from a government granting permission for the establishment of a colony.

The colonial charters granted by the King of England described the privileges and responsibilities of each colony.

civilian — a person who is not part of the military.

Should your colony be run by the military or by civilians?

colonize — to make or establish settlements in a new territory that maintain ties with the parent country.

England colonized many territories in North America.

compromise — a settlement to a conflict in which each side gives up some of its demands.

If the colony and the mother country are unable to reach a compromise, they may end up going to war.

dependent — relying on someone for support.

Some people are afraid that the United States might become dependent on foreign countries for energy resources.
depleted — used up or reduced in quantity.

The United States' reserves of oil were severely depleted.

deposit — a natural buildup or accumulation of a resource.

The explorers were seeking a rich deposit of oil.

embargo — a government prohibition on trade or shipping.

The Arab nations' oil embargo against the U.S. forced the Americans to get their energy elsewhere.

empire — a group of nations or states that is under the rule of a single government.

England's establishment of colonies all over the world gave the country a great empire.

ethnocentric — considering one's own culture to be superior to others.

Many of the European colonists had an ethnocentric view of the world. They thought that other cultures were inferior to them.

export — to send products or resources out of the country for use elsewhere.

The United States exports grain to many parts of the world. This brings money into the country.

head right system — a plan to encourage immigration to the Virginia colony in the 1600s.

The Virginia Company offered fifty acres of free land to each new settler for himself and for each person he brought with him. The head right system brought many new colonists to Virginia throughout the 1600s.

import — to bring in from a foreign country; goods brought into a country this way.

The United States imports some of its oil from countries in the Middle East. Food and water are important imports for a space colony.

indentured servant — someone who agreed to work for a period of time, usually seven years, in exchange for something, often passage to the new world.

Many of those who couldn't afford passage to the colonies in America chose to become indentured servants.

independent — self-governing; not under the control or influence of an outside source.

Many colonists wanted to be independent, free from the control of the mother country.

investment — the outlay of money, time, or other resources in the hope of making a profit.

The Astro Company hopes that its investment in a space colony will bring the company a great deal of money.

joint-stock colony — a colony established by a joint-stock company.

The joint-stock colony shipped bags of gold and silver back to its founder, a wealthy joint-stock company.

joint-stock company — a business formed when individuals pool their money and receive shares of stock (representing partial ownership of the company) in proportion to the size of their investment.

Many colonies were established by joint-stock companies that were hoping to strike it rich in the New World.

labor — workers employed to do a certain job.

The space colonists had a shortage of labor to work in the mines.

mercantilism — an economic system used by European countries in the 1500s and 1600s. In this system, a nation was supposed to increase its power by maintaining a favorable balance of trade.

The theory of mercantilism prompted many European nations to establish colonies in other parts of the world.

militia — a citizens' army.

The colonial militia acted only in times of emergency.
minutemen — special members of the colonial militia in New England who could be ready for action at a minute’s notice.

The colonial citizens who were minutemen always had to be prepared to fight.

mother country — the nation from which people leave to settle or colonize new lands.

England was the mother country of many colonists in the New World.

nationalize — to give ownership of something to the national government.

Some countries have nationalized their oil companies to give the government control over this important resource.

native — an original inhabitant of a particular area.

The colonists were surprised to find natives on the asteroid.

negotiation — a discussion intended to lead to an agreement among the participants.

It took a lot of negotiation, but the colonists and the mother country finally reached a trade agreement.

nullify — to make ineffective or worthless; to invalidate.

The king decided to nullify the charter he had granted to the Massachusetts Bay Company because the colonists had become too independent.

pacifists — people who are opposed to the use of violence.

The Quakers were pacifists, so they didn’t use force on the Native Americans.

quartering — the providing of food and shelter to someone.

The colonists might get upset if you make them responsible for quartering the troops you have left behind.

resources — items or supplies that have important uses.

Oil, coal, and water are important natural resources.

royal — owned by a king or queen.

Colonies that were taken over by the king were called royal colonies.

sanctions — special actions, often penalties, imposed by a nation or group of nations on another country to force a change in that country’s actions.

The United States placed sanctions on the Soviet Union when the Russians invaded Afghanistan.

sponsor — to support and be responsible for.

Every colony needs a government or private company to sponsor its development.

strategic — of special value, often political or military; giving an advantage.

The colony had strategic importance, since it provided a crucial source of energy that the mother country lacked.

suppress — to stop or put down, often by force.

The President called on the army to suppress the rebellion.

venture — a risky undertaking, especially in business.

Astro Company executives are willing to spend money on this venture because they expect it to make a good profit.

veto — to refuse to approve legislation, so that it does not become law.

The royal governors had power to veto the acts passed by the colonial assemblies.

vital — something necessary or of great importance.

In order to survive, the country needs to get more vital energy sources.