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To plant a flag

Before watching

Discuss in class:

What do you think the title means? What do you do when you plant a flag?

While watching

- The movie takes place in 1966. Can you notice things in the movie that give you clues about the year?

After watching

Discuss in groups of 3-4:

- The two astronauts in the movie are on a mission to plant a flag. Why do you think they need to do that? What do you think they are practicing?
- The mission is set on Iceland. Why do you think they are there? Why can't they practice planting a flag in the U.S.A. you think? When did you first realize they were still on Earth and not in space? What made you realize that?
- Why do you think base is so upset when the astronauts keep calling them Houston? Why do you think the astronauts keep doing it even though base gets upset?
- Why do you think the astronauts scare the sheep off? Why don't they just let them take their time to walk away? Why do you think the shepherd is so upset for them shooing his sheep away? Why do you think John gives him the finger?
- Lenny is going on a date with his girlfriend Tuva. What is she planning for them to eat? Who else is going to be there for dinner? What does Lenny think of it? What does John think about it?
- The astronauts are collecting rock samples with a rock claw. Why do you think they do that? What do you think they need the samples for?
- What do you think happened to the flag? Explain why you think that.



- Why do you think the shepherd reacts the way he does John knocks on his door? Why do you think he says “This is Iceland”? If you were one of the astronauts, how would you have handled the situation?
- What do you think happened to the buggy? Explain why you think that.
- Why do the astronauts think the shepherd took their flag and buggy? Why does Lenny think the shepherd took them? How does John react to that?
- What do you think will happen with the astronauts when they get back to base? Why do you think that?
- Choose the statement/-s you think is/are more fitting to describe the movie and present some arguments to why you think so;
 - This is a movie...
 - ... about a space mission
 - ... about friendship
 - ... about social skills
 - ... about doing your job
 - ... about ...

Extra:



The astronauts in the movie are on a NASA training mission. What is NASA? What does it stand for? What do they do? When was it founded? Is it still existing? If so, what do they work with now?

The movie is set in 1966. Research what happened in the U.S. space program during that year. What about the Russian and Chinese space programs? What happened in those the same year? Were there any other countries with space programs during that year?

In the movie, the astronauts keep referring to base as “Houston”. Why do they do that? What is Houston and why is it important to the space program?



The astronauts talk about the Icelandic dish sheep’s head stew. Have you tried it? Which is the strangest food you have ever eaten? What did it taste like? When did you eat it? Who else ate it? Would you ever try it again?

Use the internet. How many strange dishes can you find in 15 minutes? What do they consist of? Where are they eaten? In which countries? When? For celebration or anytime?

What would be the strangest dish you could come up with? Would you ever try it yourself?

Did you know...?

Back in the days, when morse code was used for communication, the letter R got to symbolize the phrase "Message received".

When the spelling alphabet, or phonetic alphabet, was introduced, the letter R was represented by the word Roger. It has later changed to Romeo, but Roger is still used in the expression "Roger that", meaning "Message received".

Vocabulary: (American English)

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| • a crater | - <i>en krater</i> |
| • a mission | - <i>ett uppdrag</i> |
| • coordinates | - <i>koordinater</i> |
| • base | - <i>(här) högkvarter</i> |
| • a buggy | - <i>en enspännare</i> |
| • affirmative | - <i>(här) bekräftar</i> |
| • stew | - <i>gryta</i> |
| • Roger that | - <i>uppfattat</i> |
| • to give someone the finger | - <i>att peka finger åt någon</i> |
| • to befriend | - <i>att bli vän med</i> |
| • to alienate | - <i>att fjärma</i> |
| • to chop | - <i>att hacka</i> |
| • a pot | - <i>en gryta/kastrull</i> |
| • samples | - <i>prov</i> |
| • broth | - <i>buljong</i> |
| • to herd | - <i>att valla boskap</i> |
| • a ridge | - <i>kam/ås</i> |
| • property | - <i>egendom</i> |
| • an offense | - <i>kränkning/brott</i> |
| • to intend | - <i>att ha för avsikt</i> |
| • to slam the door | - <i>att smälla igen dörren</i> |
| • a transmitter | - <i>en radiosändare</i> |
| • to complete | - <i>att avsluta</i> |
| • to scurry | - <i>att kila</i> |
| • to replant | - <i>att plantera om</i> |
| • victorious | - <i>segrande</i> |
| • a pitchfork | - <i>en högaffel</i> |
| • to barter | - <i>att byta</i> |
| • to disrespect | - <i>att visa brist på respekt</i> |
| • humiliating | - <i>förödmjukande</i> |
| • to crack the knuckles | - <i>att dra i fingrarna så att det låter</i> |
| • a callus | - <i>en valk</i> |