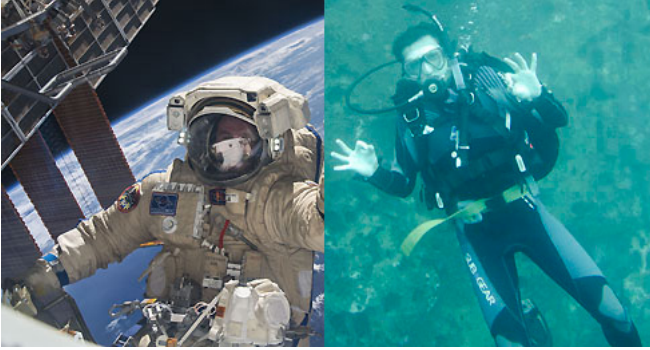


# Exploration Poll

Which scientific research is more important, underwater or space?

SEP 19, 2014 | By Andrea Delbanco

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NASA/KEITH LEVIT—AP

Fabien Cousteau spent 31 days conducting scientific research at an underwater science lab called Aquarius. It costs about \$15,000 a day to operate the lab, which is funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, a federal agency. Cousteau's research, like most underwater research, gives us a better understanding of the challenges facing our environment, both below the sea and up on land. Read more about Cousteau's research in the September 26, 2014, issue of TIME For Kids.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has a budget that tops \$17 billion per year. It costs more than \$60 million just to send an astronaut to the International Space Station. But space exploration teaches

us critical lessons about the present and the past, and about our planet and the wide world beyond.

These government agencies have large operating costs, and there isn't always enough money to go around. If you were in charge of the budget, what would your priority be? Vote in the poll below to tell us.

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