

## “The Golden Record Decoded” Transcript

**NARRATOR:** In 1977, NASA's launched Voyager 1 and 2 to explore and document our solar system and the interstellar space beyond. The craft will drift for billions of years in the emptiness, carrying our message to any intelligent spacefaring civilization that discovers it.

A golden record contains instructions written in the universal languages of science to decode its contents. The record is inscribed with a map, showing our solar system's position relative to our 14 nearest neutron stars. On the record, time is measured by the speed at which a hydrogen atom transitions between its two lowest states, almost a billionth of a second.

The rotation of the record should take 3.6 seconds when played. And the record's contents require approximately an hour to be played. Sound waves from the record can be decoded into binary numbers, which form pixels, which are arranged into images. Along with images, greetings, sounds, and music from around the world were included.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**Kurt Von Waldheim:** I send greetings on behalf of the people off our planet. We step out of all solar system into the universe, seeking only peace and friendship to teach if we are called upon, to be taught if we are fortunate. We know full well that our planet and all its inhabitants are but a small part of this immense universe that surrounds us. And it is with humanity and hope that we take this step.

[HEART BEATING]

[BABY CRYING]

**NARRATOR:** We will likely never know what the record is discovered. If it is found millions or billions of years from now, humanity may not even exist. The record may well be the last remnant of our civilization and perhaps our most enduring achievement.

[MUSIC PLAYING]