



My nature connection

POSTCARDS FROM MARS

GRADES: K+
TIME: 15 min.

LIFE ON MARS

Since the beginning of time, humans have wondered if we are alone in the universe. Mars is the most logical place to start searching for life because it is the most similar to Earth out of all the planets in our Solar System. So far, scientists haven't found any life on Mars but there is evidence that water was once present on the surface. This is a big deal because all living things need water to survive!

There may not be life on Mars now, but there could be in the not so distant future! In fact, we may have people on Mars within the next 20 years.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Pencil or colored pencils
- Your imagination

BRINGING LIFE TO MARS

As you can imagine, traveling through space and colonizing a new planet isn't easy. Here are some of the biggest challenges humans would face when living on Mars

- 1.**It's a long trip:** Under perfect conditions the trip from Earth to Mars would still take about 6 months.
- 2.**You're going to get thirsty:** Mars doesn't have any liquid water on its surface. The only water on the planet exists as ice on the northern most part of the planet.
- 3.**Hope you can hold your breath:** Humans need oxygen to breathe and unfortunately Mars' atmosphere only has a very small amount, which means we'll need to wear special suits if we want to go outside
4. **Bundle up:** The average temperature on Mars is -80 degrees Fahrenheit. For comparison, the coldest it's ever been in Minnesota is -60 degrees Fahrenheit. Brrrrr....



HOW MARS GOT ITS NAME

Mars was named after the Roman god of war because its reddish color reminded early astronomers of blood.

In reality, Mars gets its red-orange color from the iron rich soil which oxidizes and creates a rust like color.

POSTCARDS FROM MARS

In this activity, you will imagine that you're living on Mars and write a letter to someone you know back on Earth. Fill in the blanks and draw a picture of yourself on Mars to complete this postcard. When you're done, share your postcard with a friend or family member!

Dear _____,

I am writing you to let you know that after 6 long months on the space shuttle, I have arrived on Mars! It was a long trip, but I passed the time by reading my favorite book: _____ (*FAVORITE BOOK TITLE*). We had a to walk from the space shuttle to the colony. The air on Mars isn't like Earth's, so I had to put on my spacesuit to help me breathe and stay warm in the -80 degrees weather. I looked really good.

The first thing I did when I got inside was take a big drink of water made from melting the ice on Mar's surface. It was a little bland, so please send _____ (*FAVORITE FLAVOR*) powdered drink mix, so I can add it to the water. On Mars they grow all their food in special indoor farms. They have a lot of potatoes, but I hope that they'll start growing _____ (*FRUIT OR VEGETABLE*) soon.

Life on Mars may be a little bit more challenging than life on Earth, but there are unique advantages that come along with it. Did you know that gravity on Mars is 62% lower than it is on earth? I can jump super high here. Yesterday, I hopped over a _____ (*REALLY BIG OBJECT*). Things are different here, but I always feel at home when I play _____ (*GAME*) with my fellow astronauts.

I've included a small picture of what I did yesterday down below so you can really know what the day in the life of a Martian is like.

Hope to hear from you soon!

