

Mapping Out a Trip to Mars



Objectives

Students will:

- Create a thinking web
- Explain their knowledge of Mars

Overview

Brainstorm and create a Thinking Web that demonstrates students' knowledge of Mars and space travel. This is an opening exercise to introduce Mars to students and to assess prior knowledge.

Key Questions

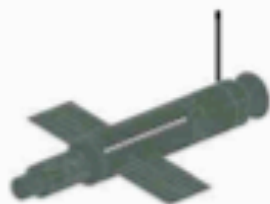
- Why visit Mars?
- What would one need to bring for a long visit to Mars?
- Given the chance to visit Mars, what would you study?

Procedures

1. Reproduce student worksheet and give each student a copy.
2. Have students complete each question on the map and encourage them to draw illustrations to go with their answers.
3. You can use the students' answers as an informal method to assess prior knowledge by starting a class discussion. Students' answers will vary. Below are some examples of where to lead the discussion:

Examples of Student Responses	Discussion Points
I would bring a portable headset or computer game.	Discuss the life of batteries and recharging facilities.
I would pack a lot of pizza, or other food products.	Discuss refrigeration, cooking, and preservation of food.
I would take lots of clothes.	Discuss the environment and safety of a spacesuit.
I would look for Martians.	Discuss what is life and how you might find it.
I would study the face on Mars.	Compare and contrast the difference between real objects and photographs.
I would go and visit Sojourner.	Discuss past Mars missions and the use of technology.
I would visit Mars because no one has ever been there.	Discuss how curiosity about the unknown leads to exploration.

Investigating Mars



On a Trip to Mars I would take . . .



If I went to Mars I would study . . .

VOYAGE TO MARS



I would like to visit Mars because . . .



I know Mars has/is . . .
