

Imagine Mars

NEWSLETTER

WINTER
2006

NASA/National Endowment for the Arts

New Resources Available at Mars Info Central: Planet Mars Multimedia

Looking for the most up to date Mars information to share with your students during the "Discover" phase of your Imagine Mars project? Just click here: <http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/info/multimedia.html> to find the latest images and information on the red planet.

Here's a taste of what you'll find:

MARS 101 - "A Few Things to Know Before You Become A Martian." Use this student-friendly presentation to explore the differences between Earth and Mars. The presentation includes great images of Mars and information about martian gravity, radiation, weather and geography. A great starting point for any student group.

Brain Bites - In these fun clips, astronauts answer popular student questions about life in space. The trip to Mars will take at least 6 months (one way!) these video pieces help students consider what that trip might be like and how to prepare for it. They would make a great supplement to any "Discover" section.

Imagine Mars Webcasts - Want to introduce your students to NASA scientists and engineers? Get started by watching one or these live webcasts. Most include student questions and give insight into the careers of Scientists and Engineers - dispelling common stereotypes and uncovering the excitement that can be found in a science or engineering

PROJECT OF THE SEASON



Students from the Academy Homes Housing and Urban Development Neighborhood Network center created this digital Mars city using 3D graphic design software. The entire community is enclosed in a dome, and includes housing, shopping and a community center.

Students worked with local architects and scientists to understand the nature of a healthy community and how life may change while living on Mars.

An animated fly-through of their finished community can be found at:

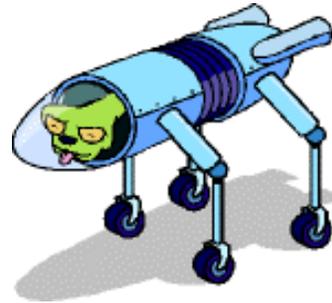
<http://imaginemars2.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery/display/view.cfm?contactID=152&projID=141>



Would Your Students Like to Talk to a NASA Scientist about Mars?



We're waiting for you! Just give us a call, or write us a note at imaginemars@jpl.nasa.gov and we'll set your students up with a one-on-one interview with NASA scientists and engineers. This is a great opportunity to get students more comfortable and excited about science and careers in engineering.



Once you post your Imagine Mars project, we can have scientists and engineers provide feedback on your student's work - a review from the experts!

All of these opportunities are free and intended to support your projects. Remember, we're here to help you design a project too!

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Mission Status

(From <http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov>)
March 10, 2006

With a crucially timed firing of its main engines on March 10, NASA's new mission to Mars successfully put itself into orbit around the red planet.

The spacecraft, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, will provide more science data than all previous Mars missions combined. "This is a great milestone to have accomplished, but it's just one of many milestones before we can open the champagne," said Colleen Hartman, deputy associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate. "Once we are in the prime science orbit, the spacecraft will perform

observations of the atmosphere, surface, and subsurface of Mars in unprecedented detail."

For the next half-year, the mission will use hundreds of carefully calculated dips into Mars' atmosphere in a process called "aerobreaking." This will shrink its orbit from the elongated ellipse it is now flying, to a nearly circular two-hour orbit.



Artist's concept of MRO en route to Mars.
Image Credit: NASA/PL

Become a Cooperating Organization

The Cooperating organization commitment forms are now online on the Imagine Mars Web site. We are seeking the help of education, arts, technology and science-focused organizations to help spread the word about the Imagine Mars project.

Cooperating organizations will receive special advance notification of new site features, special invitations to webcasts and have the opportunity to submit their education-related news for the Imagine Mars e-mail newsletter. The Imagine Mars Project will also recognize cooperating organizations on the project site and link to their websites.

In turn, cooperating organizations will be asked to post an official link from their sites to the Imagine Mars

project website and print periodic project-related news in e-mail and print newsletters about upcoming Imagine Mars events. Log on to <http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov/about/become.html> and download your copy of the cooperating organization commitment form and help us on our mission to bring the Imagine Mars project to students everywhere.



Jet Propulsion Laboratory
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109

Phone:
818-393-6729
E-Mail:
imaginemars@jpl.nasa.gov

About Imagine Mars...

The Imagine Mars Project is co-sponsored by NASA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). It is a Web-based initiative that provides you with lesson plans, Mars facts and other resources to lead student project teams. The goal of the project is to encourage students to explore their home community, to interact with scientists, artists, and community leaders, and to understand the different planetary environments

on Mars. Ultimately, students complete a project that highlights the scientific and cultural elements they determine would be important to their imagined community on Mars.

The project site, <http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov>, contains participation guides, resources for project leaders, profiles of artists, engineers, and scientists, a project gallery and other interactive features.

On behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California manages the Imagine Mars Project as part of the Mars Public Engagement program, which seeks to educate the public about scientific discoveries and benefits of NASA's missions to Mars. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology.

