

# Life on Mars

Lead your section in a debate about what it would be like to live on the red planet

## Suitable for all

### Instructions

**1** Using the information provided on this page, explain to your section that UK Space Agency is involved in supporting a current mission to find out more about Mars. You could remind them about Scout Ambassador Tim Peake's job as an astronaut, and that he spent time living on the International Space Station.

**2** Tell the section to imagine they have just landed on Mars to start a new civilization. Discuss together some of the pros and cons of moving there.

**3** Divide them into two groups and explain that they will be debating whether or not we should move to Mars: decide which group should be 'for' and which one is 'against'. Each group needs equal time and opportunity to put forward their reasons.

**4** Ask them to consider and discuss what life would be like, using the questions provided to spark debate.

**5** Next, ask the groups to present their arguments for and against to the rest of the section.

**6** Ask each group what they found most convincing about the other group's argument. Then hold a vote to see who would like to move to Mars.



### Did you know?

In July 2018 Scout Ambassador Tim Peake dropped in on a Group in Farnborough and helped them earn their Astronautics Activity Badge, launching air and water rockets and answering their questions about life on the International Space Station.

Watch the video here:

[facebook.com/ESATimPeake/videos/1996849937021449/](https://www.facebook.com/ESATimPeake/videos/1996849937021449/)

**1**  
You've just landed. What do you need first? E.g. water, food, shelter. Where can you go to the toilet? How would you charge a phone?

**2**  
If there are other life forms already living on Mars, should humans interact with them or keep their distance?

**3**  
Would you teach the next generation on Mars about Earth's history, or start from scratch? Why/why not?

**4**  
Who would be in charge of the new society? Would you vote, like in a democracy, or would one person be in charge?

**5**  
What would it be like to live on Mars? What should the houses be like and what would shape them? E.g. materials, climate, atmosphere.

Use these questions to inspire discussion

**Time needed**  
**45 minutes**

**Badge**



UKSA (UK Space Agency) partners the Scout Astronautics Activity Badge

**Partner**



**Outcomes**

This activity will encourage young people to explore what life might be like elsewhere in the universe. It will teach young people what it would be like to discover other forms of life. This will be achieved by debating with each other on topics like where they would live, what they would need to survive and how their new society would be organised.

**Take it further**

The young people could do some research to learn more about the mission to Mars that UKSA is supporting. Then, they could design a model of their own space probe, satellite or rover, including the instruments on board that enable it to complete its mission.

**More information**

The UK Space Agency aims to inspire our next generation of UK scientists and engineers by partnering the Scout Astronautics Activity Badge and introducing Scouts to the exciting and growing world of space engineering and space science. For more information and activities visit [scouts.org.uk/ukspaceagency](https://scouts.org.uk/ukspaceagency).

### Mission to Mars

UKSA is helping to fund the exploration of Mars by the European Space Agency (ESA) to find out more about the red planet's atmosphere and geology.

#### 2016

A satellite, the ExoMars Orbiter, was launched to study gases and has been sending data back to Earth.

#### 2018

In April it sent images of an ice-filled crater on Mars' surface.

#### 2020

The ESA will launch the ExoMars Rover, currently being built in the UK. The six-wheeled vehicle will analyse ground samples and search for molecular signs of life on Mars.

