



Study Skills Assignment Sheet
October 13 & 15, 2009

Take notes on a sermon this week. Show topic, main points and details.

**Read article on MARS exploration.
Read “ Writing Paraphrases” section 180 from
WRITERS INC, Sebranek, Meyer, Kemper, copyright
1996, D.C. Heath and Company.**

**Rewrite the information in the article using the
guidelines from section 180. Ask you parents to
read your completed writing, checking for
plagiarism.**

**The article MARS is printed on the back of this
assignment sheet.**

**Return this assignment sheet next week with a
parent’s signature indicating that he/she proofread
your composition.**

Parent signature and date

Will there ever be life on Mars?

This question can be answered with an almost certain yes. NASA's Mars program is focused on that very issue: Finding ways to get humans to Mars, and then keeping them alive once they arrive. Whether or not humans will live long term on Mars is hard to say, but it appears very likely that we will at least visit.

So what kinds of missions has NASA sent to Mars?

Mariner 4 lifted off on November 28, 1964 It traveled some 325 million miles towards this red sibling planet. The Pictures Mariner 4 sent back were fuzzy, but they were clear enough to shatter current scientific belief. Scientists expected to find an intelligent species with cities, and artificial canals. Instead they found a dead planet that looked much like the Moon.

Mariner 6 began its journey towards Mars on February 24, 1969. Then just a month later on March 27, 1969 Mariner 7 followed the same path. The two satellites could gather more than 35 times the amount of data that Mariner 4 had gathered. They shot a total of 199 pictures all together adding a great wealth of knowledge about the planet.

Mars 2 and Mars 3 were sent by Russia. Shortly after this NASA sent Mariner 9. Mariner 8 had failed falling into the Atlantic Ocean shortly after lift off. NASA and Russia worked together closely helping each other obtain the best results. Rather than just flying by the planet like the previous missions this time the crafts would orbit Mars.

Viking 1 and Viking 2 were the next missions sent to Mars. These missions consisted of both an orbiter, and a lander. They were armed with sophisticated equipment which would perform various experiments including searching for life.

Mars Observer was sent in 1992. It had two important goals. First it was going to photograph a mountain on Mars called Cydonia. This mountain looks like a human face, and it was going to prove that it was just a coincidence. Secondly it was going to search for landing spots for future astronauts. It never carried out its missions however. Only three days before arriving it broke down, and became a useless piece of space junk.

The Pathfinder Sojourner mission is the most recent mission to study Mars. It consisted of an orbiter and a lander. The lander was unique because rather than being stuck where ever it landed, part of it could actually move around like a little remote control car. This rover was named Sojourner after NASA conducted a naming contest among school children.

What is the future of Mars?

It is quite possible that your decedents 10,000 years from now will live on Mars their entire lives. They will not need space suits because of a science called Teraforming. Teraforming is when you change a planet to make it Earth-like. This may sound like science fiction but it is an actual science, and it is actually possible today. It just takes a long time to accomplish the task.

Long before Mars is teraformed, it will probably be home to scientific colonies living in enclosed shelters built on the planet. These colonies will set the stage for future expeditions to other planets and moons, and will also begin the first steps of teraforming.

Of course before scientists can live on Mars we have to make the first step of actually visiting. This is not as easy as it sounds. The technological barriers can be broken in a matter of a few years, but going to Mars is very expensive. Let's hope congress will see the importance of future exploration by funding these projects allowing us to fulfill our destiny.

astronomy for children

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