



TRAVELING TO MARS

Family Activity: As more discoveries are made on Mars by rovers, the question of what it would take to send people there looms nearer. With your family or friends, take a moment to imagine you are amongst the first astronauts sent on the long journey to the Martian surface. You might learn something about each other, as well as discover some of the challenges we will have to overcome before making the journey ourselves.

Thought Question 1

You will be confined to your ship to Mars for 5-7 months (probably more), followed by several months on Mars. Who would you choose to be on your crew and why? Would you be able to get along with them for 5-7 months?

Thought Question 2

It costs between \$2,000 and \$14,000 to launch each pound of material into space. Because of this, astronauts are allowed only one pound of personal items. What would you take with you for a trip to Mars? (Remember, it has to weigh less than a pound!) How would it help you cope with being so far from home?

Thought Question 3 Thinking of the early pioneers in your own country, what skills would you look for in choosing people to be on your team?

Thought Question 4 Sometimes, astronauts get to

perform their own experiments while in orbit. What experiments would you want to try on Mars? Why? What would you hope to learn?

COMING SOON

Strange Planets

Opening on June 19th in the Willard Smith Planetarium will be the world premiere of Strange Planets, a show about detecting worlds in orbit around other stars.

Astronomers have found over two hundred planets lurking light years from our solar system. In the new planetarium show *Strange Planets*, an adorable alien named Gort has lost his starmap and needs your help to find his extrasolar home. But how do you find a planet orbiting another star? Is it even possible? Learn the latest astronomical techniques for identifying extrasolar planets and measuring their size, mass, and temperature. Then find an easy-to-spot star in the night sky that has an extrasolar planet orbiting it!

Astronomy Resources

Our Address: pacificsciencecenter.org/planetarium

Sky Updates: stardate.org

Night Sky Notes and Sky Calendar: www.pa.msu.edu/abrams/

Astronomy Questions Answered: AlicesAstroInfo.com

EVENTS AND OPPORTUNTIES

University of Washington Observatory: www.astro.washington.edu/groups/outreach/tjo/

Seattle-Area Astronomy Events: www.seattleastro.org The Willard Smith Planetarium is now booking private shows for your special occasion. (206) 443-3611.

PHASES OF THE MOON

