

Arkansas State Standards Addressed:

English Language Arts

W.7.3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, relevant descriptive details, and well-structured event sequences.

W.7.3.A Engage and orient the reader by establishing a context and point of view/perspective and introducing a narrator and/or characters; organize an event sequence that unfolds naturally and logically.

Learning Goals:

Students will...

Understand that NASA is getting ready to go to Mars!	
Know that through creative writing students can imagine they're explorers!	Do their own creative writing based on real world space challenge.

Materials Needed:

- Learn more about the 'Journey to Mars' on NASA's website: <https://www.nasa.gov/topics/journeymars/index.html>
- NASA's 'Mars Facts' <http://mars.nasa.gov/allaboutmars/facts/#?c=inspace&s=distance>
- Optional: find journal entries from famous explorers like Ferdinand Magellan or Lewis and Clark to demonstrate an explorer's writing style. *BPL has several books about this topic.

Procedures:

- Optional: The class period before, assign students to read a selection of journal entries from famous world explorers. This will model a specific writing technique students could use in their own journals.
- Introduce the topic by presenting the students with NASA's 'Mars Facts' website.
- After they've had time to review some Mars facts, present them with the following writing prompt: "You're a NASA scientist aboard the first space shuttle to land on Mars. Your mission is to report back to Earth about your findings."
- Once time is up, ask for volunteers to present their journal entries.

Explore Space Exhibit Information:

Explore Space: A Cosmic Journey, a traveling exhibition for libraries, is part of the STAR Library Education Network (STAR_Net) led by the National Center for Interactive Learning at the Space Science Institute. Exhibit partners include the American Library Association, the Lunar and Planetary Institute, and Afterschool Alliance. Explore Space is supported through a grant from the National Science Foundation.

