



Picture News

In the Early Years

Speaking and Listening

EYFS Framework: Children are confident to speak in a familiar group. Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places and objects.

Look at the Picture News poster: What can you see? Where do you think this picture has been taken? What do you like about this picture?

Tell the children the picture was taken from the planet Mars. *Think about: Have you heard of Mars before? What is Mars? What do you know about it?*

Explain that Mars is a planet. We live on a planet called Earth and the planet Mars is another planet in our solar system. Show the children a picture of the solar system (you could use google images) and locate Earth and Mars.

Tell the children it has been in the news that a rover has successfully landed on the planet Mars. It has had to travel 290 million miles to get there from planet Earth. Can you see the rover in the Picture News Poster? The rover, which is called Perseverance, has been sent to Mars to try and find out if anything (a plant or a creature) has ever lived on Mars before and whether anything could live there again?

Question: What is it like on Mars?

Think about: Using the Picture News Poster to help you, what do you think it might be like on Mars? Do you think any creatures may have lived there or live there now?

Discuss that nobody has ever been to Mars before and we can only see pictures of it from the robots and machines that have been sent there. Look at the **EY Resource**, which tells you some facts about Mars.

Think about: Would you like to be the first person to ever go to Mars? How would you get there? What do you think you would do once you were there? What do you like or dislike about Mars?

Outdoor Role-Play: Can you act going to and exploring Mars?

EYFS Framework: Uses language to recreate roles and experiences in play situations.

Think about: How will you get to Mars? What can you use to build your space rocket? What will you need to take with you? I hope nothing goes wrong along the journey! What are you going to do now you have landed on Mars? I wonder if you will find any creatures or any signs of life!

Resources: Outdoor classroom role-play resources, magnifying glasses, rocks, clipboards, paper, pens

Writing: Can you design and label your own spacesuit to take a trip to Mars?

EYFS Framework: Gives meaning to marks they make as they draw, write and paint. Uses some clearly identifiable letters to communicate meaning, representing some sounds correctly and in sequence.

Model drawing a spacesuit, thinking about everything the spacesuit will need to be able to do. Model labelling the different parts such as helmet, oxygen tank, heated gloves etc.

Think about: What will your spacesuit look like? What must your spacesuit have? It's very cold on Mars. How will your space suit keep you warm? What tools would be useful to have on your space suit? Does your spacesuit do anything exciting?

Resources: Drawing and writing proforma (See EY Additional Resource 1), pencils, pencil crayons

Maths: Can you practise counting down with your own countdown rocket?

EYFS Framework: Children count reliably with numbers from one to 20, place them in order and say which number is one more or less than a given number.

Discuss that when a rocket takes off into the sky there is often a countdown. Practise counting down from 5 to 0. Have another go, this time counting down from 10 to 0. If the children are ready, they can also try counting down from 20 to 0. Show the children the countdown rocket resource (see EY Additional Resource 2). The children can cut out and order numbers 5-0, 10-0 or 20-0, depending on ability, and put them in between the top and bottom parts of the rocket.

Think about: Can you make your own countdown rocket? What are you going to count down from? Let's now count down to see what number comes next! What does the number 4 look like? If you're not sure, what could you use to help you?

Resources: Rocket pieces and numbers (see EY Additional Resource 2), scissors, number line

Being Imaginative/The World: Can you paint a picture of Earth and Mars to show how they are different?

EYFS Framework: Creates simple representations of objects. Children know about similarities and differences in relation to places and objects.

Think about: What shape do you think you need to paint Earth and Mars? Which planet is the biggest? What colours can you see on Earth? Why do you think the Earth is blue and green? What colours can you see on Mars? Why is it different to Earth? I wonder if your picture will also have the sun on it! Can you remember, is Earth or Mars closer to the sun?

Resources: Black paper, chalks or ready-mix paint, paint brushes, aprons, images of Earth and Mars.

Useful Video

Life on Mars – Adventure story about discovery Mrs Clark's Reading Corner

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CWbFPt9IsPU>