

Start with a Book: Space Rangers

Create a Martian



Introduction

Do Martians exist?

An early 20th Century American astronomer named Percival Lowell believed that there was intelligent life on Mars — not just microbes or plants. He claimed that canals seen on Mars were built by Martians to move water from the polar ice caps to the dry areas on Mars in order to grow plants.

When the U.S. spacecraft Mariner 4 flew past Mars in 1965, it took pictures that showed Lowell's theory to be false. But the fascination with Martians and imagining what they might be like is still strong! Many science fiction stories explore the possibility of Martians and what they would be like.

Supplies

- White and colored paper
- Colored pencils, markers, or crayons
- Googly eyes, pipe cleaners, felt scraps, glue (optional)
- Large piece of brown kraft paper (you can cut up old grocery bags and tape them together)
- Tape
- Scissors

Get kids thinking

In this activity, kids will invent their own Martian — a life form that could survive on Mars. Read a nonfiction book together about Mars, and talk about what the weather and land forms are like.





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ASK KIDS: Is Mars hot or cold? How do animals adapt to live in very cold or very hot climates? Is Mars windy, dusty, rocky? Does it rain on Mars? What if Martians lived in special spaceships?

Let's get started!

Have the kids draw, color and embellish their Martians, thinking about the Mars environment as they create their character.

Once they are done, asks the kids to cut their Martian drawing out of the sheet of paper. The kids can add googly eyes and pipe cleaners with glue (optional).

Tape everyone's Martians to a wall covered with brown kraft paper (that's your Mars surface)

Get everyone together in a group, and encourage the kids to talk about their ideas for their Martian. **ASK KIDS:** what makes your Martian able to live on Mars?

