



Let's Colonize Mars

It's time to go to Mars! Many decades have passed since someone from Earth visited the moon. Like the first airplane flight or the discovery of electricity, the trip to the moon in 1969 was a great moment in human history. Now it's time to take the next step toward the future.

Cities are becoming larger and more crowded each year. The time is coming when it may become difficult to produce enough food for all of us. We are at a point in history when we must board ships and move on—only this time our ships will be spaceships!

It won't be easy, of course. Life on the frontier has never been easy, and Mars will be a challenging frontier. It's going to be cold there. There will be very little water. At first, the only available tools and materials will be those brought with us in the spaceships. The challenge will be enormous, but we must do it before it's too late.

One big obstacle to this plan is money. To colonize Mars, it will cost trillions and some people think it's too expensive. They need to understand it will be worth the cost because our survival is at stake. What is that worth? We can't put a price tag on it. It is priceless. Over the course of Earth's history, many species have become extinct. There is no guarantee that humans will survive. Sooner or later, we will use up Earth's resources, and then the true value of a colony on Mars will be apparent. Mars will be the only place for our overflow population.

We should not wait until our problems on Earth become more serious because then it will be even harder to organize and pay for a Mars program. We need to do it now, with all the nations of the world working together. Like the great explorers of earlier years, we should keep our eyes fixed firmly on the future and do something to save humanity.

TEACHER SCRIPT

- “This is a position paper on Mars. Panel, go to the front of the room”.
- (Call on a student not in the panel.) “Read one of the problems you see with the author’s evidence or the conclusions. Read just one problem”. (Student reads.)
- “Who on the panel wants to respond to that problem? Review the key ideas expressed. Draw your own conclusions about the evidence presented”. (Call on a student. Praise panel and students for good problems and good responses to problems.)
- (For remaining problems, call on individual students to read problems not previously discussed. Praise panel and students for good problems and good responses to problems.)
- (Continue having those against the author’s position as questions until the class has presented the various problems in the passage.)
- “Let’s review what we heard today”. (Call on several students to summarize different points made by students and explain how the points were supported by reasons and evidence.)