

Week 1: Learning Research Skills

LESSON 2:	INTRODUCTION TO MARS AND THE MARS ROVER CELEBRATION PROJECT
GRADE LEVEL:	6-8
LENGTH:	2 DAYS
VOCABULARY:	astrology astronomy surface

MATERIALS:

- Computer and Internet access
 - Wet wipes (optional for hand clean-up)
- Per Student:
- Paper plate
 - Plastic knife (or cut samples for students at the appropriate time)
 - Ruler
 - 3" long section of clear plastic soda straw
 - Different kinds of "fun-sized" candy bars*

***Note:** Teachers from states with strong nutrition policies (e.g. Texas): When conducting this experiment, ensure that your food choice complies with your state's Public School Nutrition Policy. [The Texas Public School Nutrition Policy](#) permits this activity under Section VI.B.5 of this policy, provided you use approved a la carte snack items.

Regardless of state nutrition policies, all teachers will want to be aware of any food allergies that exist in their classrooms (e.g. allergy to peanuts) and avoid foods that contain those substances.

TEKS/SEs:

Science

Grade 6

6.2.A 6.2.C 6.3.B 6.4.A 6.11.A

Grade 7

7.2.A 7.2.C 7.3.B 7.4.A

Grade 8

8.2.A 8.2.C 8.3.B 8.4.A

Full text versions of these TEKS are available at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter112/ch112b.html>

Math

Grade 6

6.8.B 6.11.A 6.11.D 6.12.B

Grade 7

7.13.A 7.13.D 7.14.A 7.14.B

Grade 8

8.8.A 8.8.C 8.14.A 8.14.D

Full text versions of these TEKS are available at <http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/rules/tac/chapter111/ch111b.html>

Language Arts

Grade 6

6.1 6.2.A 6.14.B 6.17.A.iii 6.28

Grade 7

7.1 7.2.A 7.14.B 7.17.A.iii 7.28

Grade 8

8.1 8.2.A 8.14.B 8.17.A.iii 8.28

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National Standards

Science

Science as Inquiry

- Abilities necessary to do scientific inquiry
- Understanding about scientific inquiry

History and Nature of Science

- Science as human endeavor
- Nature of science

Math

Measurement

- Understand measurable attributes of objects and the units, systems, and processes of measurement
- Apply appropriate techniques, tools, and formulas to determine measurements.

Problem Solving

- Solve problems that arise in mathematics and in other contexts
- Apply and adapt a variety of appropriate strategies to solve problems

Language Arts

- NL-ENG.K-12.1 Reading for Perspective: Students read a wide range of print and nonprint texts to build an understanding of texts, of themselves, and of the cultures of the United States and the world; to acquire new information; to respond to the needs and demands of society and the workplace; and for personal fulfillment. Among these texts are fiction and nonfiction, classic and contemporary works.
- NL-ENG.K-12.3 Evaluation Strategies: Students apply a wide range of strategies to comprehend, interpret, evaluate, and appreciate texts. They draw on their prior experience, their interactions with other readers and writers, their knowledge of word meaning and of other texts, their word identification strategies, and

their understanding of textual features (e.g., sound-letter correspondence, sentence structure, context, graphics).

- NL-ENG.K-12.7 Evaluating Data: Students conduct research on issues and interests by generating ideas and questions, and by posing problems. They gather, evaluate, and synthesize data from a variety of sources (e.g., print and nonprint texts, artifacts, people) to communicate their discoveries in ways that suit their purpose and audience.
- NL-ENG.K-12.8 Developing Research Skills: Students use a variety of technological and information resources (e.g., libraries, databases, computer networks, video) to gather and synthesize information and to create and communicate knowledge.