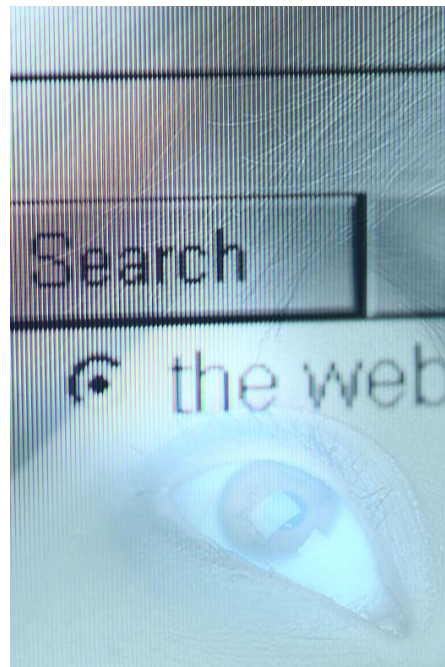


## Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan



**research:**  
to study something carefully, to get all the  
necessary facts and information

## Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

### Introduction:

**TEACHER:** Teach the word “research” before teaching “plagiarism” as the reflection activity for plagiarism requires that students be familiar with both words.

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is research. When we **research** something, we study it carefully; we try to get all of the necessary facts or information we need. Research helps us learn new facts or test new ideas about something.

Let’s look at some pictures that will help us understand the meaning of the word “research”. There are many different ways to conduct or do research. In the top picture, two scientists are in a laboratory using special equipment to do research. These scientists are looking at a germ under the microscope, researching how it behaves, so that they can develop medicines to fight the disease that the germ causes. In the next picture, the woman is using a book to learn about a place she wants to visit, London. She is researching, getting all the facts and information she needs to help her plan her visit to London. The third picture shows another way many people conduct research— using the internet. You have probably used the Internet to research something. Perhaps you wanted to know about a new video game before you bought it, so you looked on the internet to find out what other people who bought the game said about it.

### Example:

Let me give you another example of the word research. Last month I bought a new car. Before I selected the car I wanted, I made a list of all the things I wanted my car to have and figured out how much I could afford to spend on my car. Then, I went and looked at the cars that were available in my price range and researched which cars best matched my needs. After I researched or carefully studied this, I chose the car that was the best match.

### Reflection:

Think about the following sentences. If it is an example of someone conducting research, put your thumbs up and say RESEARCH. If it is not an example of research, put your thumb down and remain silent.

- A scientist is studying how people might be able to live for years in outer space (thumbs up)
- A boy is playing in a little league baseball game (thumbs down)
- A girl is reading about why some trees lose their leaves in winter (thumbs up)
- A man is painting the outside of his house a new color (thumbs down)

### Make it personal:

Think about your Mars Rover mission. You will have to research many facts in order to have a successful mission. You will need to find out how to get to Mars, how to communicate with your Rover, and how conditions on Mars could affect your design. Think for a moment about the specific things you may need to know for your mission. Then, share these with a neighbor. Be sure to start each idea you share as follows, “*One thing I will have to research is...*” I will ask some of you to share your ideas.