

## Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan



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### Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is mission. **Mission** has many meanings, but in today's lesson it means "the clearly stated main purpose or goal for a trip or project". Many people, organizations and projects have a mission. Setting a goal or mission helps them plan out the steps they need to follow in order to be successful.

Let's look at some pictures that will help us understand the meaning of the word mission. The first picture shows the Hubble Telescope. It was launched into space in 1990. The Hubble Telescope can see better than telescopes on Earth because Earth's atmosphere blocks and changes some of the light from space. Since the Hubble Telescope is above the Earth's atmosphere, it avoids this problem and is better able to see than telescopes on Earth. The Hubble's mission is to take pictures of parts of the universe that cannot be seen from Earth. Hubble has been successful in its mission. The telescope has made many important discoveries and helped scientists learn much about our universe. The soccer team in the second picture also has a mission. Their purpose or goal is to win every game they play and become the league champions.

### Example:

Sometimes people will also talk about a mission in very personal terms. For example, last week I went shopping with some friends. I told them that my mission was to buy a lightweight suitcase for my vacation. This meant that finding this suitcase was very important to me. I was ready to go to as many stores as necessary to find this suitcase and I was determined not to return home until I had found the perfect suitcase for my trip.

### Reflection:

I am going to read you some missions. I want you to think about the possible steps that these people could take to accomplish their missions. Start your answer with, *"To accomplish this MISSION..."*

- A Girl Scout troop leader announces that their mission for the year will be to sell more cookies than any other troop in the country.
- Dad's mission is to fix the car that is broken down in the driveway.
- Jose's mission is to become an Olympic swimmer.
- A school's mission is to have every student pass to the next grade.

### Make it personal:

Think about a time in your life when you had a mission and nothing was going to stop you before you completed that mission. Then I want you to turn and share your story with your neighbor. Be sure to start your sentence with, *"My mission was to..."* I will ask some of you to share your missions with the group.