



accurate:
measured or calculated precisely and correctly

Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan

Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is “accurate”. Accurate has several different meanings, but in today’s lesson accurate means “measured or calculated precisely and correctly.” Being accurate is very important. Think of the last time you poured yourself a glass of milk. You had to determine where to pour the milk and calculate how much to pour into the glass. If you are not accurate in either of these measurements, you will spill the milk on the table.

Let’s look at some pictures that will help us understand the meaning of “accurate”. Carpenters often use a tape measure to make measurements when they are building something from wood. If his measurements are accurate, he will cut the wood correctly and have a beautiful staircase like the one on top. However, if his measurements are not accurate, his staircase might turn out like the one on the bottom.

Example:

Accuracy is very important to people every day. For example, it is important for your teachers maintain accurate grades so report cards reflect how well students are doing in class. It is important for your parent to accurately measure how much pepper and chili she puts in your food or it may be way too spicy. Drivers want cars to accurately measure how much gasoline is left in the tank so they know when they need to fill it and don’t run out of gas.

Scientists also want to be very accurate when they measure or calculate. For example, if NASA scientists didn’t measure the distance to Mars correctly, the rover might never have arrived at the planet. Even a small mistake in measuring something could cause a piece of equipment on the rover not to work right. While a mistake like this might be easy to fix on Earth, once the rover is in space, it could ruin a mission and cost millions of dollars.

Reflection:

I am going to read some sentences. If the person is precisely and correctly measuring or calculating something, put your thumbs up and say ACCURATE. Otherwise, put your thumbs down and say NOT ACCURATE.

- A parent is using a ruler to find out whether her baby has a fever. (thumbs down)
- Carlos is figuring out how much money he has using a calculator. (thumbs up)
- A man on a diet is weighing how much meat and rice he can have for dinner. (thumbs up)
- A chef is timing how long the food he is cooking should stay in the oven. (thumbs up)

Make it personal:

Think about something in your life that you have to accurately calculate or measure. What is this “thing” and why is it important for you to be accurate? When you have an idea, share it with your neighbor. Be sure to use the word “accurate” in your description. I will ask some of you to share your ideas.