



BRITISH
SCIENCE
WEEK
2022



SURVIVING ON MARS

Growth is one of the signs of life. Mars rovers are being used to explore the possibilities of life on Mars, also known as the red planet. In this activity, you will be designing an animal that could survive on Mars. What would it look like?

🕒 30 minutes

Skill set: Creative, imaginative, tenacious



🧰 Kit list

Modelling materials
(clay/Plasticine)

Modelling oddments
such as buttons,
paper straws, pipe
cleaner, etc. (optional)

Paper and pencils
for design sketch
(optional)

📖 Instructions

- 1 Think about the needs of all living things on Earth. What additional characteristics would animals need to survive on Mars – can you design an animal that could survive on the red planet?
- 2 Before making your model, here are some things to consider:
 - What do we know about the temperature on Mars? What characteristics would help your creature to live in these cold temperatures?
 - What do we know about the Martian landscape? What would a creature that lived here look like?
 - What could the Martian creature eat?
 - Is there more or less gravity on Mars - how would a Martian animal have to be different to an animal on Earth?
- 3 Work in teams for 15-20 minutes to build your creations.

⚠️ Watch out

- Wash your hands after building your creations.

➤ Next steps

The ExoMars Mission is looking for signs of life using the Rosalind Franklin rover, find out more: explorify.uk/teaching-support/whats-new/go-to-mars-with-explorify ✨.

🏠 At home

Tell your grown-up about your creature. If you have a pet, do you think your Martian creature would be friends with it? For more free activities to develop curiosity, discussion and reasoning skills, visit Explorify at explorify.uk ✨.

➤ Career options

Be a zoologist who studies animal life on Earth or an astrobiologist who studies life beyond our planet.

