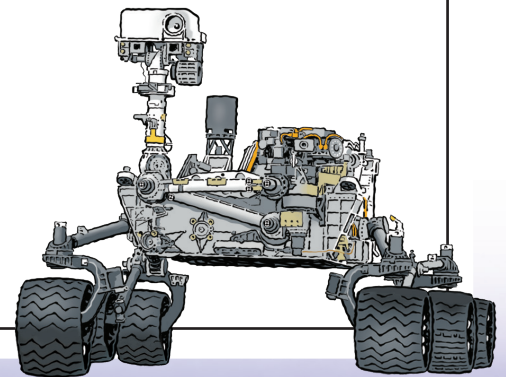


Life in Our Solar System



NASA is already experienced at examining the possibilities of finding some form of life on Mars. Its most recent rover, Perseverance, has a 7-foot-long robotic arm with a shoulder, elbow, and wrist joints — and it even has a “hand” at the end! The arm is designed to collect and analyze samples, drill small holes, take photos, and even store samples that can later be retrieved for study back on Earth. When a sample is collected, it is moved to inspection and sealing stations located in the rover’s belly. Once sealed, it is stored until the rover’s team of scientists can decide where to leave it on the planet’s surface.

Can you engineer a “robotic arm”? Work with your team to first view Perseverance’s arm at <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/spacecraft/rover/arm>. Then plan, sketch, and build an arm using “tools” your teacher gives you. The arm must be able to bend in at least one place and “scoop up” a cotton ball. Sketch your idea, try it and, if needed, try again by noting what didn’t work and how your team could improve it. Then sketch and write about your final design. Remember: It takes **perseverance** for the Peanuts Gang to learn how to work together in *Snoopy in Space*. So persevere in your group until you succeed!



FAMILIES! Learn more about NASA’s thrilling search for life on other planets by joining Snoopy and the Peanuts Gang’s adventures in season 2 of *Snoopy in Space*, now streaming on Apple TV+.