

Mission to Mars

Part 1: The Perseverance rover is equipped with many different scientific tools. It's also carrying something else — the names of millions of people! Even Snoopy has gotten in on the fun, adding his name to the list in hopes that one day he can travel there in person. As a part of NASA's "Send Your Name to Mars" campaign, everyone who signed up received a boarding pass and the ability to track their "frequent flier miles" as Perseverance soared through space to Mars.



Perseverance is the latest Mars rover. It's named after a quality that helps a person keep doing something even though it's difficult or challenging. The quality of perseverance is embraced by all scientists and astronauts who follow the steps of the engineering design process — ask, imagine, plan, create, experiment, and improve. Do you recall a time when you persevered to achieve something? Perhaps it was learning to ride a bike or whistle, or maybe the first time you finished a thick book or a huge jigsaw puzzle.

Get "mission ready" by writing about how you have persevered through something difficult. Did you follow the steps in the engineering design process? Summarize your experience below, then share it with your classmates.

Part 2: Visit <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/mission/science/landing-site/> to learn more about the Jezero Crater, Perseverance's landing site. What is its significance? Watch the video on the page, then answer the questions below and create some of your own.

1. How long did it take for NASA scientists to choose the landing site? _____
2. Why did they choose the Jezero Crater? _____
3. Which parts of the crater will the rover explore? _____
4. What is NASA hoping to find in or around the crater? _____

Now, write two questions of your own that can be answered with the information found on the Perseverance landing site page.

1. _____
2. _____

Families: What do you and a Mars rover have in common? Perseverance! Talk with your children about how you have persevered through difficult situations as a family, and how that has made you stronger. Then, learn more about Perseverance's mission by visiting <https://mars.nasa.gov/mars2020/>.

