

Mars Habitation

LESSON 12: CREATING A MISSION STATEMENT, NAME, AND FLAG



Objectives:

- Students will review the content from the previous session and consider how their new community on Mars will function.
- Students will create a name for their community
- Students will identify the values their martian community will be based on
- Students will write a basic mission statement identifying those core values and the overall purpose of their Mars community.
- Students will design and draw their community flag.

Time: 2 - 2.5 hours

Materials:

- Examples of Mission Statements
- Pictures of flags from different countries
- Paper
- Markers, Pens/Pencils
- Pens/Pencils

Prepare:

- Print out examples of Mission Statements
- Print out flag pages with symbol descriptions

Activity (step by step)**STEP 1: Recap from Last Session**

1. Review the last session's activities:
 - a. What did they decide they liked and didn't like about their home community?
 - b. How might this affect their community on Mars?
2. Review the types of people that make up their community and are important to a sustainable community.
 - a. What characteristics do they have?
3. Explain that for the last few sessions they have been REFLECTING on their home community – Answering questions about what it is like and what kind of people live there. This week they get to start IMAGINING!
4. They are now preparing their community on Mars and will use what they've learned to decide not only what the community is like and who lives there, but what values and rules the community has.

STEP 2: Discussion

1. Remind students that they are building a brand new community on Mars and it can be any way they want it to be.
 - a. Discuss why a name is important in giving a community or a company or even a person a sense of identity.
 - i. Guiding Questions:
 1. What does your community name mean to you? What does it make you think of? Why was it named that?
 2. Would you rather work at a company called "Pretty Good Prices" or "Sensational Sales" why?

- ii. Have students work in their groups to come up with a few examples of their own.
 - iii. Let them share with the class and allow the groups to vote on which name they want for their community.
- b. Ask students to consider some of the rules and values that their current community has, or doesn't have, and what they would like for their new community on Mars. Have students talk in their groups about what values they'd like their martian community to have. Allow the groups to share and then discuss.
 - i. Guiding Questions:
 1. What are important rules or values that you want your community to have?
 2. Do we have those rules/values in this community on Earth?
 3. What are some of your dreams for how people in the Mars community will behave and treat each other?
 4. What would make the Mars community an undesirable place to live?
 5. How can you turn the undesirable elements into positive elements?
- 2. Explain that sometimes communities or corporations develop Mission Statements to sum-up the values of a community and define it. Pass out the "Examples of Mission Statements" sheet.
- 3. Explain that some communities have flags that have different signs, colors and symbols that are used to promote ideas and values. Pass out the "Flags and Their Symbols" sheets.
- 4. Explain that today students will design a flag and create a mission statement for their new Martian community based on the values and rules they just identified.

STEP 3: Activity

1. Using the information that comes out of the discussion and their example sheets, ask students to write down value words or key phrases on sticky notes defining the core values and/or rules of their new Martian community.
2. Students put the sticky notes on a large piece of paper or poster board
3. Using the defined words and phrases on the poster, have students work together in their groups to build a simple mission statement.
4. Then have the students discuss what colors and symbols should be included on their flag based off their values and mission statement.
5. Have the students draw and design a flag that represents their group's community.

STEP 4: Recap

1. Ask students "who would want to live in this new community?"
2. What are ways that we could make our current community more like this Mars community?

Examples of Mission Statements



Mission Statement

A one-sentence statement describing the reason your organization or program exists.
(What you do + who/what you do this for)

CLEAR: Simple language. 8-10th grade reading level.

CONCISE: No fluff. Aim for 5-14 words (20 max).

USEFUL: Inform. Focus. Guide.

1. **National Parks Conservation Association:** To protect and enhance America's National Park System for present and future generations.
2. **New York Public Library:** To inspire lifelong learning, advance knowledge, and strengthen our communities.
3. **American Red Cross** prevents and alleviates human suffering in the face of emergencies by mobilizing the power of volunteers and the generosity of donors.
4. **Feeding America:** To feed America's hungry through a nationwide network of member food banks and engage our country in the fight to end hunger.
5. **Boy Scouts of America:** To prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.
6. **NPR:** To work in partnership with member stations to create a more informed public – one challenged and invigorated by a deeper understanding and appreciation of events, ideas and cultures

Flags and Their Symbols

The idea of flying flags grew from the requirements of ancient warfare and the battlefield. Shields were painted with emblems or symbols to identify friend or enemy. Warriors needed to know where their leaders were hence the custom of carrying a pole was adopted and subsequently the idea of flags began!

The colors on different flag symbols represent the following:

- Yellow Flags - A symbol of generosity
- White Flags - A symbol of peace and honesty
- Red Flags - A symbol of hardiness, bravery, strength & valour
- Blue Flags - A symbol of vigilance, truth and loyalty, perseverance & justice
- Green Flags - A symbol of hope, joy and love and in many cultures have a sacred significance
- Black Flags - A symbol of determination, often reflecting the ethnic heritage of the people

Common symbols found on flags (this is not a complete list):

- Sun: The circle of the sun symbolizes unity and energy.
 - Japan is referred to be the "land of the rising sun" and uses the sun (simplified as a circle) in its national flag. Another country using this powerful symbol: Argentina (flag below).



- Moon: The moon is usually displayed in crescent shape to distinguish it from the symbol of the sun. In combination with a star, the moon represents divinity and especially the Islam.
 - Tunisia (flag below) has got three powerful symbols in its national flag: the red crescent moon and one red star rest in a white circle representing the sun, which you will see in the picture below. Other countries using this symbol: Turkey, Singapore.



- Stars: Constellations of stars often represent energy, especially when depicting the night sky or star constellation
 - The flag of the USA is called "Stars and Stripes" Other countries using the stars as symbol: Australia, New Zealand, Brazil.



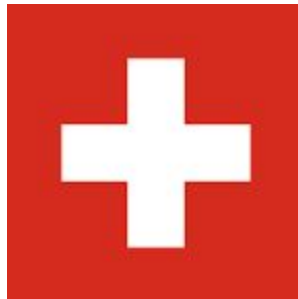
- Cross: In ancient times the cross only symbolized the different points of the compass, in the 4th century however the cross was also taken as the symbol of faith.
 - Countries using this symbol: England, Sweden(see flag below), Norway , Switzerland



- Triangle: The three points of a triangle represent the Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) in Christianity. The triangle often also symbolizes strength and power.
 - Countries using this symbol: Bahamas, Eritrea, Sudan, American Samoa and others



- Square: The four even lengths of the square symbolize balance and equal opposites.
 - The Swiss flag is the only square flag in the world. Did you know that the flag of the international humanitarian organization 'Red Cross' uses the reverse flag? It has got a red cross on white background.



REMEMBER!

Each country, state, territory and organization chooses its flags to best represent the ideals it holds most valuable. The colors and symbols used in flag design stand for tradition and excellence, signifying a respected history and a hopeful future.