

# Mars Habitation

## Lesson 17 - CLOTHING FOR MARS



### Objectives:

- Students will create clothing for the people in the first martian community
- Students will consider extreme environments on Earth and how the clothing people wear protect them.
- Students will note different clothing types in different cultures around the world, and consider which they would like to take with them.

**Time:** 2 hours

### Materials:

- Pencils
- Paper
- Crayons
- Markers

### Prepare:

- Identify websites with environment-inspired clothing examples from around the world.

Some examples:

- India - <http://www.cuisinecuisine.com/CultureClothing.htm>
- Greenland - <http://greenlandtoday.com/national-clothing/?lang=en>
- Korea - <http://www.lifeinkorea.com/culture/clothes/clothes.cfm>
- China - <https://www.topchinatravel.com/china-guide/traditional-chinese-clothing/>
- Saudi Arabia - <http://www.topics-mag.com/internatl/dress-saudi-ar.htm>

## **Activity (step by step)**

### **STEP 1: Recap from Last Session**

1. Ask students to remember what four key elements you are focusing on (Language, Food, Clothing and Music).
2. Explain that today you will be focusing on the clothing you will wear on Mars and will create a new martian costume or spacesuit.

### **STEP 2: Discussion/Intro activity**

1. Have students work in pairs. Give them 10 minutes to explore one of the sites you have already identified, or direct them to search for information about traditional clothing in a particular part of the world. Come back and discuss.
2. Guiding Questions
  - a. What did you find out about the clothing of another culture?
  - b. What can you share about how the clothing is designed for the environment in which the people live?
  - c. What kind of clothing is common to our culture?
  - d. How does it protect us from the environment?
  - e. What kind of clothing might we need to wear on Mars?
3. Explain that clothing's primary role (before heat and air conditioning) was to protect us from the environment.
  - a. Explain that on Mars, the temperature is EXTREMELY cold and the atmosphere has no oxygen to breathe.
  - b. Remind students that the first people on Mars may spend a lot of time enclosed in buildings that provide normal temperatures and oxygen levels, but that sometimes they will need to explore outside.
4. Explain that like people who live in more extreme parts of the world, the first people on Mars will have to have special clothing to protect them from the harsh environment.

But, also like people in other cultures, clothing is a way we express ourselves, and the new martian clothing should express something about the new community.

### **STEP 3: Activity**

1. Have students work in pairs
2. Have each student pair design either an entire outfit, or an element of clothing for the first martian citizens.
3. Ensure that students can explain whether this clothing is appropriate to wear inside or outside.
4. Create a poster highlighting the martian clothing and explaining how it functions.

### **STEP 4: Recap**

1. What did students consider as they were designing clothing for the first Mars inhabitants?
2. Were there any types of clothes that they wanted to include but didn't? Why not?
3. What is different or special about the clothes they chose to take to Mars from the clothes that they regularly wear here on Earth?

### **STEP 5: Writing**

Remember that you can write your book however you want. These writing lessons are to provide structure if they students do not know where to start.

- If you are writing a narrative think about how clothing can be for protection or personal expression or even to communicate status. If you are writing about protective clothing – how long does it take you to get dressed, is it uncomfortable, is it ugly? Do you perhaps wear a uniform? Does it make you feel special? What is your favorite thing to wear? Are you excited to put on your Mars suit? Or are you so happy to put on your pajamas or jeans when you get back to base?

- If you are writing letters, tell your Earth pen pal about what it is like to get dressed to go outside or how great it feels to get out of your work clothes at the end of the day. Alternatively, talk about someone else on Mars who dresses funny, or looks awesome in their uniform.
- If you are writing an ABC book, choose a piece of clothing to write about – like U for uniform. Think about how you might describe your clothing (any type) using your senses. What color is it? B for blue? What does it feel like? I for itchy? Is it smooth, stretchy, heavy? What is it made of plastic? Mylar, silk? Cotton? Does it have B for badges?