NASA/National Endowment for the Arts Fall 2007 Newsletter

Summer Camps Imagine Mars!

This summer, students across the country imagined what it would be like to live on Mars in a healthy and sustainable community. Elementary students at the Louisiana Children's Museum in New Orleans built rockets, made soil rubbings and choreographed an interpretive dance during their Imagine Mars project. Many of the students were impacted by hurricane Katrina, making the exercise of building community even more meaningful.

Meanwhile, a few states over middle school students at the St. Mary's Summer Academy in Indiana created pins, brochures and physical models of their communities. Led by teacher Pat Chrenka, the students spent one week learning about Mars and their community through interactive projects and activities. "We had a blast," said Chrenka. "The kids really surprised me with their ideas."

Finally, all the way in California, high school students in the Art Center College of Design Saturday High summer program worked on an Imagine Mars project they called "gravity games." The objective was to create a game or a tool that would make use of Mars' lower gravity. Creations included a system for playing fetch with a martian pet and a vehicle that "jumps" to get from place to place. All of these projects and more can be found in the online project gallery at http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery.

Students at St. Mary's Summer Academy build community maps.

First graders at the Louisiana Children's Museum learn about UV radiation.

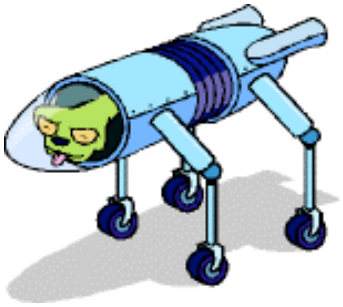
PROJECT OF THE SEASON

Seniors at the Beverly Towers NN Center create a flag for their martian community

Making Imagine Mars history, senior citizens at the Beverly Towers Housing and Urban Development Neighborhood Networks Center created their own Imagine Mars project. Led by project leader Melanie Thai, the seniors spent more than 5 weeks learning about Mars, talking about their home community and considering what the future might be like on Mars. They created a martian flag, and blueprints for their martian community. Participants in the project commented that they looked forward to sharing their new knowledge about Mars with their loved ones. You can view their project at http://imaginemars.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery

Would Your Students Like to Talk to a NASA Scientist about Mars?

We're waiting for you! Just give us a call, or write us a note at imaginemars@jpl.nasa.gov and we'll set your students up with a one-on-one interview with NASA scientists and engineers. This is a great opportunity to get students more comfortable and excited about science and careers in engineering.



Once you post your Imagine Mars project, we can have scientists and engineers provide feedback on your student's work – a review from the experts!

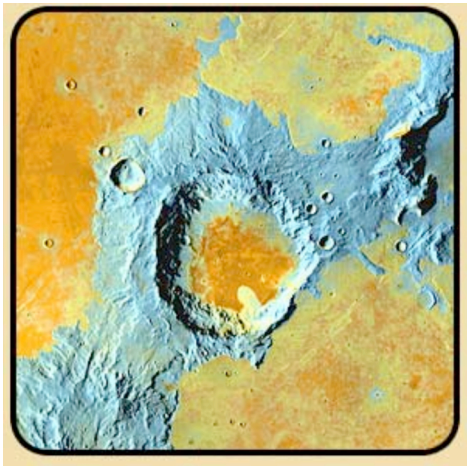
All of these opportunities are free and intended to support your projects. Remember, we're here to help you design a project too!

Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter Update

Mars Mission Update

A Colorful Marriage of Old & Young

Primordial and prehistoric come together in a lasting bond of something old, something new, something orange, and something blue. In this false-color image, blue signals cooler sand or dust around an ancient crater, which dates back to a violent time of cataclysmic collisions about 4 billion years ago, shortly after Mars formed. Later, sheets of lava streamed across the surface and lapped against the crater walls. These younger lava rocks "glow" orange and yellow since they retain more heat at night than the sand and dust. **(From http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov)**



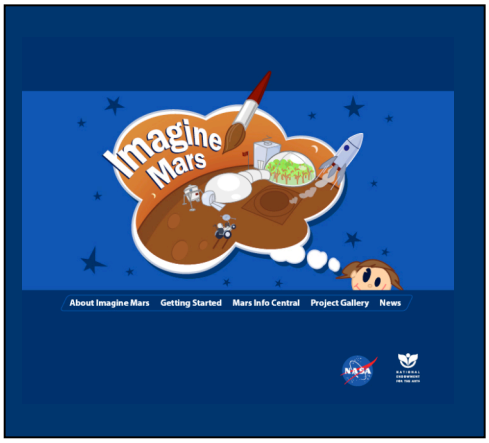
An ancient crater on Mars as imaged by the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter's THEMIS instrument. .
Image Credit: NASA/PL-Caltech/ASU

Become a Cooperating Organization

The Cooperating organization commitment forms are now online on the Imagine Mars Web site. We are seeking the help of education, arts, technology and science-focused organizations to help spread the word about the Imagine Mars project.

Cooperating organizations will receive special advance notification of new site features, special invitations to webcasts and have the opportunity to submit their education-related news for the Imagine Mars e-mail newsletter. The Imagine Mars Project will also recognize cooperating organizations on the project site and link to their websites.

In turn, cooperating organizations will be asked to post an official link from their sites to the Imagine Mars project website and print periodic project-related news in e-mail and print newsletters about upcoming Imagine Mars events. Log on now to http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov/about/become.html and download your copy of the cooperating organization commitment form and help us on our mission to bring the Imagine Mars project to students everywhere.



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On behalf of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, California manages the Imagine Mars Project as part of the Mars Public Engagement program, which seeks to educate the public about scientific discoveries and benefits of NASA's missions to Mars. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology.

About Imagine Mars…

The Imagine Mars Project is co-sponsored by NASA and the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). It is a Web-based initiative that provides you with lesson plans, Mars facts and other resources to lead student project teams. The goal of the project is to encourage students to explore their home community, to interact with scientists, artists, and community leaders, and to understand the different planetary environments on Mars. Ultimately, students complete a project that highlights the scientific and cultural elements they determine would be important to their imagined community on Mars.

The project site, http://ImagineMars.jpl.nasa.gov, contains participation guides, resources for project leaders, profiles of artists, engineers, and scientists, a project gallery and other interactive features.