

Making Mars Home

An activity of "Can people colonise Mars?"

A key part of writing a summary is knowing which points should be included. Generally, we keep only the main ideas and discard supporting ideas like examples and explanations.

The sentences below are taken from the section titled "Creating a colony" in the article "Can people colonise Mars?" (page 11, *What's Up*, April 2021). Your task is to summarise what will happen when the astronauts reach Mars and how they will create a colony there.

1. Identify the main points by highlighting them. Then, identify the supporting ideas by underlining them. Bonus points if you can categorise these into "example" or "elaboration"! The first sentence has been done for you.



1. **When astronauts reach Mars, they will circle around the planet,** just as the International Space Station orbits around the Earth. [example]
2. The crew will descend to the surface of Mars in a vehicle known as an entry capsule.
3. Mars' atmosphere will slow down the capsule via aerodynamic drag.
4. It is the same force you feel when you put your hand out the window of a moving car.
5. To land safely and softly, the entry capsule will use an inflatable heat shield, a parachute to generate aerodynamic drag and retrorockets to slow down.
6. It will take less than 10 minutes to reach the Martian surface after entering the planet's atmosphere.
7. Once on Mars' inhospitable surface, the crew will need to live in a pressurised and environmentally controlled habitat.
8. This is because Mars has a thin atmosphere, made primarily of carbon dioxide, and a very cold surface temperature of -81 degrees Fahrenheit.

2. Go to page 11 of your *What's Up* newspaper and do this for the rest of the "Creating a colony" section. You should have 10 to 12 main ideas.
3. Using the main points that you have identified, write a summary of "Creating a colony".