

Martian-Earthling Pen Pal Gift Exchange

An activity of "Life on Mars?"

Read the article "Life on Mars?" (pages 16-17, *What's Up* October 2024). Imagine there is really life on Mars and you are writing to a Martian pen pal for the first time!

1. Write a letter to your Martian pen pal with the following guidelines:

- *Introduce yourself and share some interesting aspects of life on Earth.*
- *Ask about life on Mars (e.g. What do you eat on Mars? What do you do for fun? etc).*
- *Enclose an imaginary gift from Earth for your Martian friend. Describe and explain what it is.*

The writing area is a large rectangle with horizontal lines, set against a dark blue space background. The border is decorated with various space-themed illustrations: an astronaut sitting on a yellow crescent moon in the top right, another astronaut on the ground in the bottom left, a colorful planet on the left, a starburst on the right, and a comet at the bottom. The central area is white with horizontal lines for writing.

2. Swap letters with a classmate. Reply to your classmate's letter as if you were the Martian.

- *Introduce yourself and share some interesting aspects of life on Mars.*
- *Answer your Earthling friend's questions.*
- *Enclose an imaginary gift from Mars for your Earthling friend. Describe and explain what it is.*
- *Make sure your response is fun and imaginative!*



3. The Imaginary Gifts

- *Make or sketch out your imaginary gifts based on what you described in the letter.*
- *You can use whatever materials available to make your gift. Keep it pocket-sized.*
- *Ideally, the Martian gift is reflective of the imagined Martian lifestyle. It shouldn't be something too obviously from Earth.*
- *Be creative and make your Martian gift unique!*