

Goals

- Practise reading skills
- Practise talking skills (structured and unstructured monologues)
- Get to know topical vocab
- Practise adjectives describing character

Warm-up (unstructured monologue), 10 minutes

Now, here's your situation: Your ship has sunk. You are in a lifeboat together. You can make out a desert island in the distance. Unfortunately the lifeboat can only take half of your group continue to inhabit the desert island. Your goal is to convince your group that you should stay on the boat to survive. The hard part is that the only thing going for you is having an item that was drawn a few minutes earlier by a classmate on the piece of paper.

Text-based activity, 20 minutes

<http://youtu.be/74pA5YH-ehY>

Watch the video. What questions do you have after watching the video? Write them down on a piece of paper.

Now, try to get them answered with the help of the text. Are there any questions left? Let's get them answered on Mars One's website: mars-one.com.

Vocabulary work I, 10 minutes

https://quizlet.com/_ul4w3

First read the vocab list and then do at least two of the activities. Go for several rounds each.

Structured monologue, 10 minutes

Prepare for a very short talk on Mars One. Use sticky notes to prepare for and structure your monologue. Talk about the Mars One project for 2 minutes each (Groups of 4).

Vocabulary work II, 10 minutes

"The prime attributes Mars One is looking for in astronaut-settlers is to be resilient, flexible, curious, open and resourceful" - In your opinion, what other attributes should the Mars explorers have? Choose 10 adjectives from the list (if necessary look them up in the dictionary) and explain your choice: "Explorers should be ... because when ... they will need to ..."

Reflection, 10 minutes

- How well did you cope with structuring your monologue?
- How well did you understand the text?
- Which of the new vocab items can you retrieve from your memory?
- Were you able to form correct English questions?

The company Mars One plans to send four astronauts on a trip to the Red Planet to set up a human colony in 2023. But there are a couple of serious snags.

5 Firstly, when on Mars their bodies will have to adapt to surface gravity that is 38% of that on Earth. It is thought that this would cause such a total physiological change in their bone density, muscle strength and circulation that voyagers would no longer be able to survive in Earth's conditions. Secondly, and directly related to the first, they will have to say goodbye to all their family and friends, as the deal doesn't include a return ticket. The Mars One website states that a return "cannot be anticipated nor expected".

10 Nevertheless, the project has already had more than 223.000 applicants that ranged in age from 18 to at least 62 and, though they include women, they tended to be men.

The reasons they gave for wanting to go were varied, he said. [...]

15 The prime attributes Mars One is looking for in astronaut-settlers is to be resilient, flexible, curious, open and resourceful, according to Kraft. They must also be over 18.

20 Professor Gerard 't Hooft, winner of the Nobel prize for theoretical physics in 1999 and lecturer of theoretical physics at the University of Utrecht, Holland, is an ambassador for the project. 'T Hooft admits there are unknown health risks. The radiation is "of quite a different nature" than anything that has been tested on Earth, he told the BBC. High radiation levels can lead to increased cancer risk, a lowered immune system and possibly infertility

25 Founded in 2010 by Bas Lansdorp, an engineer, Mars One says it has developed a realistic road map and financing plan for the project based on existing technologies and that the mission is perfectly feasible. The website states that the basic elements required for life are already present on the planet. For instance, water can be extracted from ice in the soil and Mars has sources of nitrogen, the primary element in the air we breathe. The colony will be powered by specially adapted solar panels, it says.

30 The project will cost a reported \$6bn (£4bn), a sum Lansdorp has said he hopes will be met partly by selling broadcasting rights. "The revenue garnered by the London Olympics was almost enough to finance a mission to Mars," Lansdorp said, in an interview with ABC News in March.

35 Another ambassador to the project is Paul Römer, the co-creator of Big Brother, one of the first reality TV shows and one of the most successful. On the website, Römer gave an indication of how the broadcasting of the project might proceed: "This mission to Mars can be the biggest media event in the world," said Römer. "Reality meets talent show with no ending and the whole world watching. Now there's a good pitch!"

The aim is to establish a permanent human colony, according to the company's website. The first team would land on the surface of Mars in 2023 to begin constructing the colony, with a team of four astronauts every two years after that.

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Adjectives describing character

Mars
One

easy-going
ambitious
hardworking
trustworthy
impatient
optimistic
sensitive
moody
sociable
reserved
lazy
attentive
chatty
courageous
grumpy
honest
kind
mean
nasty
selfish
vain
eccentric
exuberant
flexible
gentle
reliable
strong-willed
tenacious
zany
humble