



Prize Winner

Science Writing Year R-2

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The Future of Space Exploration: Safeguarding Life Beyond Earth

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Word count 200

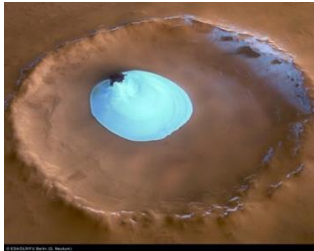
WELCOME!

Welcome to Mars. Sorry you had to leave Earth quickly when it was destroyed. We hope you're happy here. Here is a guide to your new life!

Your home underground protects you from radiation. Five metres underground gives you the same radiation you got on Earth. Our colony at the equator means lots of sunlight for energy.

Inside we breathe air! We found lots of ice on Mars. Water is made of hydrogen and oxygen so we melt ice to get oxygen then mix it with nitrogen from the atmosphere to pump air into your home!

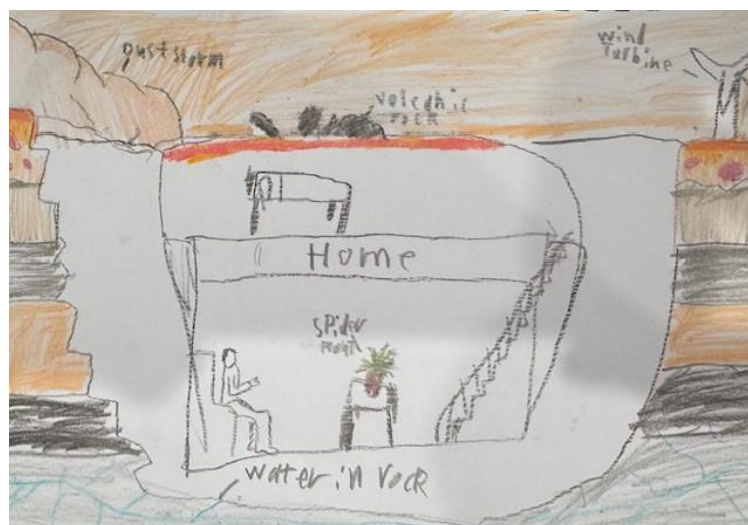
We have power! Sunlight boils water to run turbine engines. We use dust storms to power wind turbines and dig into volcanic rock to get steam power.



ICE ON MARS Picture credit - European Space Agency

You won't be hungry! We grow seeds from Earth in greenhouses. Spirit Rover found rocks with all the nutrients for soil. In your home there are lots of spider plants. They don't need lots of light or water and make oxygen for you.

Thank you for moving to safeguard life beyond earth. Over many years we will create enough greenhouse gases that Mars will be like Earth and hopefully we will look after this planet better.



References

1. "Welcome to Mars" by Buzz Aldrin
2. "Mission to Mars" by Mary Kay Carson
3. www.kids.nationalgeographic.com/space
4. www.nasa.gov/kidsclub
5. www.esa.int/kids