



## Questions for Classroom Discussion

### **Mission to Mars**

#### **What are reasons you might consider being one of the first volunteers to go to Mars?**

- *consider that the mission would be a huge step in space travel and an important part of human history... and volunteers are needed to fulfil that*
- *consider how many children dream of going to space, but only a handful of people ever reach that dream*
- *consider that your experience on Mars will be important and fulfilling, and you will be well respected on Earth*

#### **What are major drawbacks to being one of the first volunteers to go to Mars?**

- *consider the major risks of any space flight, not to mention the added risk of sending humans to Mars for the first time (this is much further than any manned-flight mission that has taken place)*
- *consider that the early missions to Mars may be one-way, so you will live out the rest of your days on a strange planet and never see Earth again*
- *consider that you will be leaving your life on Earth—friends, family, work, home—for a very long time, and perhaps forever*
- *consider the living conditions on Mars, and that you will always need a special suit to go outside and you will be surrounded by just a few other volunteers*

#### **What are the key factors that would play the largest role in your decision about whether or not to volunteer for a mission to Mars?**

- *consider the “big picture” and how important space exploration is to you and to mankind in general*
- *consider your current life on Earth, and how much you might be needed by family and friends... and whether you are willing to leave them behind*
- *consider your age, health, physical condition, and mental state, and decide whether you would thrive in an isolated situation or become miserable*