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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS





Mission: SPACE Mars Challenge Kit

Is the *Mars Challenge* suitable for all year levels?

While it is aimed at students from Years 3 to 6, students up to Year 8 will still benefit from completing the *Mars Challenge*.

How many students can participate?

As many as you like! The kit includes enough resources to run the *Mars Challenge* activity with **up to 30 students at a time**. If you would like to run this activity with more than 30 students, you may need to provide additional consumable resources, but the materials can be strategically recycled, and the tech is yours to keep! So, feel free to continue using the resources to run multiple sessions, with multiple classes, if you would like to.

Is the activity aligned to the curriculum?

Yes! As a national initiative, the *Mars Challenge* content and resources are aligned with the Australian Curriculum across Years 3 to 6 and cover several strands across Science and Technology.

What do I need to provide for the *Mars Challenge* activity?

You will need:

- A screen to project the PowerPoint slides that step you and your students through the challenge activities,
- Some basic consumables that would be used in the prototyping process, like scissors and tape,

Everything else is provided! On the day, simply print off the student resources provided by us and ensure that you have a dedicated space for student groups to build their designs and launch them over a 2-and-a-half meter distance.

Do you provide a Risk Assessment template for the activity?

The challenge content provides an overview of safety considerations but does not replace a school-specific Risk Assessment.



How much time do I need to complete the challenge with my students?

The challenge is broken down into discrete 40-minute sessions, making it easy to complete the activities across a single day or several weeks – whatever works for you. It is designed to be flexible to accommodate for classroom teachers and specialist teachers alike!

The challenge consists of three sections:

Part A Coding Challenge (**optional**): two 40-minute sessions

Part B Mars Approach Challenge: three 40-minute sessions

Part C Mars Explorer extension activity (**optional**): one 40-minute session.

The three sessions in *Part B* make up the core activities of the challenge, so you can complete these three sessions **only** if you like. However, if you are eager to have a go at the additional challenges, consider starting with *Part A* (Coding Challenge) and/or finishing at *Part C* (the Mars Explorer extension activity). Our Professional Learning consultants and Digital Technologies experts will walk you through how to navigate this.

Do I need to know how to code?

Definitely not! Before running the challenge, you will have a virtual information session with our Professional Learning consultant that will assist you in understanding the resources provided, work through the challenge and teach you the basics of block coding. This will help you decide how comfortable you are with running each part of the challenge with your students and choose how to best implement the resources we provide.

During the challenge activity, we explain coding concepts to your students in simple terms, using tried and tested techniques, so that students can complete a basic coding challenge if they would like to. You also have the option of teaching the coding principles and trying out coding ‘just for fun’ or you can task your students with the challenge of coding the device given to them in the Mars Challenge kit – choose your own adventure! Whatever you chose to do, you will be supported by our consultants to help you along the way.

Who can I ask for help?

Once your school has been selected to participate, our Professional Learning consultant will be in contact with you. They will organise the initial information session, as well as follow up meetings to ensure that there are several opportunities to ask for help, seek assistance from an expert or simply share your experience with other participants in your state.