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Level 3

Vegetable gardens tested for Mars

10th October, 2016

<http://www.breakingnewsenglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

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Please try Levels 0, 1 and 2 (they are easier).

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THE ARTICLE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Scientists are trying to get humans to Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are currently trying to find out what kind of plants could grow in the red soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will be able to start growing their own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take up to two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them just to last for the journey. They will never be able to return to Earth, which means they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables and other plants from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It just has red dust.

Humans may be on their way to Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing special "Martian gardens" to see what kind of things might grow on Mars. They have used a special soil made up of crushed volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed to grow lettuce in it. They said the lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker roots and took longer to grow. They will now try growing other vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology development in terms of reliable, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

Sources: <http://www.csmonitor.com/Science/2016/1006/NASA-s-Martian-gardens-What-kinds-of-veggies-can-we-grow-on-Mars>
<http://www.techtimes.com/articles/181178/20161007/martian-gardens-key-to-surviving-mars-colonization-nasa.htm>
<http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/29858/20161008/survival-in-mars-nasa-scientists-developing-martian-garden.htm>

WARM-UPS

1. VEGETABLE GARDENS: Students walk around the class and talk to other students about vegetable gardens. Change partners often and share your findings.

2. CHAT: In pairs / groups, talk about these topics or words from the article. What will the article say about them? What can you say about these words and your life?

humans / Mars / agency / astronauts / journey / return / fruit / vegetables / soil / Martian / gardens / volcanic / rock / nutrients / organic material / discoveries / Earth

Have a chat about the topics you liked. Change topics and partners frequently.

3. MARS: Students A **strongly** believe it is a good idea to live on Mars; Students B **strongly** believe it isn't. Change partners again and talk about your conversations.

4. LIFE ON MARS: How can astronauts live on Mars? Complete this table with your partner(s). Change partners often and share what you wrote.

	Problems	Solutions
Food		
Oxygen		
Warmth		
Hobbies		
Health		
Friends		

5. SPACE: Spend one minute writing down all of the different words you associate with the word "space". Share your words with your partner(s) and talk about them. Together, put the words into different categories.

6. SCIENCE FICTION: Rank these with your partner. Put the things you want to happen most the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- holidays in space
- jet-backpacks
- cities on Mars
- live to be 200
- download skills to brain
- typing by thought
- recording dreams
- healthy forever pills

BEFORE READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

1. TRUE / FALSE: Read the headline. Guess if a-h below are true (T) or false (F).

- a. NASA is looking at ways to get things to grow on Mars. **T / F**
- b. The article says Mars is also called the Black Planet. **T / F**
- c. It could take two-and-a-half years to get to Mars. **T / F**
- d. Astronauts will need to grow things on Mars from seeds. **T / F**
- e. Astronauts will not get to Mars until at least 2050. **T / F**
- f. Scientists used crushed salt rock because it is like the soil on Mars. **T / F**
- g. Scientists grew lettuce in volcanic dust and it tasted like normal lettuce. **T / F**
- h. Scientists want to pave a large part of Mars. **T / F**

2. SYNONYM MATCH:

Match the following synonyms. The words in **bold** are from the news article.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. trying | a. has |
| 2. find out | b. trip |
| 3. journey | c. earth |
| 4. last | d. prepare |
| 5. soil | e. discover |
| 6. next | f. stuff |
| 7. contains | g. upcoming |
| 8. material | h. attempting |
| 9. pave the way | i. safe |
| 10. reliable | j. keep going |

3. PHRASE MATCH: (Sometimes more than one choice is possible.)

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Scientists are trying to get | a. plants from seeds |
| 2. what kind of plants could grow in | b. way for future studies |
| 3. The journey to Mars could take up | c. volcanic rock |
| 4. grow their own fruit, vegetables and other | d. for growing things |
| 5. Mars doesn't have soil that is good | e. humans to Mars |
| 6. a special soil made up of crushed | f. roots |
| 7. The scientists managed to grow | g. production |
| 8. it had weaker | h. the red soil on Mars |
| 9. pave the | i. lettuce in it |
| 10. reliable, efficient food | j. to two-and-a-half years |

GAP FILL

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Scientists are trying to get humans to Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space (1) _____ NASA are currently trying to find out what kind of plants could grow in the red (2) _____ on Mars. They hope that astronauts will be able to start growing their own food on the Red Planet. The (3) _____ to Mars could take up to two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them just to (4) _____ for the journey. They will never be able to (5) _____ to Earth, which means they will need to grow their (6) _____ fruit, vegetables and other plants from (7) _____. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing (8) _____. It just has red dust.

soil
return
agency
seeds
last
things
journey
own

Humans may be on their (9) _____ to Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing special "Martian gardens" to see what (10) _____ of things might grow on Mars. They have used a special soil made up of (11) _____ volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic (12) _____, so it is similar to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed to grow lettuce in it. They said the lettuce tasted (13) _____, but it had weaker (14) _____ and took longer to grow. They will now try growing other vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will (15) _____ the way for future studies and technology development in terms of (16) _____, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

material
way
pave
crushed
normal
reliable
kind
roots

LISTENING – Guess the answers. Listen to check.

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

- 1) Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are currently trying _____
 - a. to finding in
 - b. too find out
 - c. to find out
 - d. to find in
- 2) They hope that astronauts will be able to start growing _____
 - a. their only food
 - b. their own food
 - c. their owned food
 - d. their owner food
- 3) The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with _____
 - a. then justly to last
 - b. them just to last
 - c. them just to lasts
 - d. then just to last
- 4) they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables and other _____
 - a. plants for seeds
 - b. plants from these
 - c. plants from seats
 - d. plants from seeds
- 5) Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It _____
 - a. just has red dust
 - b. just has red dusty
 - c. just has red dusts
 - d. just has red dusted
- 6) testing special "Martian gardens" to see what kind of things _____ Mars
 - a. might growth on
 - b. might grow on
 - c. might grows on
 - d. might grew on
- 7) They have used a special soil made up of crushed _____
 - a. volcanic rocked
 - b. volcanic rocky
 - c. volcanic rock
 - d. volcanic rocking
- 8) They said the lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker roots and _____ grow
 - a. took longer too
 - b. took longer two
 - c. took longer thru
 - d. took longer to
- 9) Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will _____
 - a. paved the way
 - b. pave the weigh
 - c. pave the way
 - d. pave a way
- 10) studies and technology development in terms of reliable, _____ production
 - a. efficiently food
 - b. efficient food
 - c. efficiency food
 - d. deficient food

LISTENING – Listen and fill in the gaps

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Scientists are trying (1) _____ Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are (2) _____ to find out what kind of plants could grow in the red soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will be able to start growing (3) _____ on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take up to two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to (4) _____ food with them just to last for the journey. They will never be able to return to Earth, which means they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables and other (5) _____. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't (6) _____ good for growing things. It just has red dust.

Humans may (7) _____ to Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing special "Martian gardens" to see what kind of things might grow on Mars. They have (8) _____ soil made up of crushed volcanic rock. It contains (9) _____ organic material, so it is similar to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed to grow lettuce in it. They said (10) _____ normal, but it had weaker roots and took longer to grow. They will now try growing other vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries (11) _____ Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology development (12) _____ reliable, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

1. Who is trying to get humans to Mars?
2. What is the other name used for Mars in the article?
3. How long will it take to get to Mars?
4. What will astronauts use to grow plants?
5. What does Mars not have that might cause problems growing things?
6. Within how many years could the first humans be on Mars?
7. What did scientists crush to get a soil similar to Mars?
8. What vegetable did scientists grow in the soil?
9. What part of the vegetable was weaker?
10. What do scientists hope will become reliable and efficient?

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

- 1) Who is trying to get humans to Mars?
 - a) scientists
 - b) Google
 - c) a rocket company
 - d) airline pilots
- 2) What is the other name used for Mars in the article?
 - a) Mercury
 - b) c-5fBx
 - c) the Red Plant
 - d) space agency
- 3) How long will it take to get to Mars?
 - a) 2½ months
 - b) 2½ years
 - c) 2½ decades
 - d) 2½ centuries
- 4) What will astronauts use to grow plants?
 - a) flower pots
 - b) fertiliser
 - c) boxes
 - d) seeds
- 5) What does Mars not have that might cause problems growing things?
 - a) good soil
 - b) rain
 - c) bamboo poles
 - d) greenhouses
- 6) Within how many years could the first humans be on Mars?
 - a) 12
 - b) 13
 - c) 14
 - d) 15
- 7) What did scientists crush to get a soil similar to Mars?
 - a) earth
 - b) volcanic rock
 - c) salt
 - d) seeds
- 8) What vegetable did scientists grow in the soil?
 - a) tomato
 - b) pumpkin
 - c) spinach
 - d) lettuce
- 9) What part of the vegetable was weaker?
 - a) the taste
 - b) the seeds
 - c) the roots
 - d) the leaves
- 10) What do scientists hope will become reliable and efficient?
 - a) technology
 - b) food production
 - c) Earth
 - d) development

ROLE PLAY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Role A – Holidays in space

You think holidays in space is the best thing to happen in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): living to be 200, downloading skills to the brain or recording dreams.

Role B – Living to be 200

You think living to be 200 is the best thing to happen in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): holidays in space, downloading skills to the brain or recording dreams.

Role C – Downloading skills to brain

You think downloading skills to the brain is the best thing to happen in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): living to be 200, holidays in space or recording dreams.

Role D – Recording dreams

You think recording dreams is the best thing to happen in the future. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): living to be 200, downloading skills to the brain or holidays in space.

AFTER READING / LISTENING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

1. WORD SEARCH: Look in your dictionary / computer to find collocates, other meanings, information, synonyms ... for the words 'space' and 'agency'.

space	agency
--------------	---------------

- Share your findings with your partners.
- Make questions using the words you found.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

2. ARTICLE QUESTIONS: Look back at the article and write down some questions you would like to ask the class about the text.

- Share your questions with other classmates / groups.
- Ask your partner / group your questions.

3. GAP FILL: In pairs / groups, compare your answers to this exercise. Check your answers. Talk about the words from the activity. Were they new, interesting, worth learning...?

4. VOCABULARY: Circle any words you do not understand. In groups, pool unknown words and use dictionaries to find their meanings.

5. TEST EACH OTHER: Look at the words below. With your partner, try to recall how they were used in the text:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• get• find• take• start• never• just	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15• crushed• no• managed• longer• future
--	---

VEGETABLE GARDENS SURVEY

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Write five GOOD questions about vegetable gardens in the table. Do this in pairs. Each student must write the questions on his / her own paper. When you have finished, interview other students. Write down their answers.

	STUDENT 1 _____	STUDENT 2 _____	STUDENT 3 _____
Q.1.			
Q.2.			
Q.3.			
Q.4.			
Q.5.			

- Now return to your original partner and share and talk about what you found out. Change partners often.
- Make mini-presentations to other groups on your findings.

VEGETABLE GARDENS DISCUSSION

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. What did you think when you read the headline?
2. What springs to mind when you hear the word 'Mars'?
3. Is there life on Mars?
4. What do you think about what you read?
5. What do you think it would be like to live on Mars?
6. What do you think of growing things on Mars?
7. What do you think of gardening?
8. What kind of people are astronauts?
9. What would it be like to travel to Mars for 2½ years?
10. How would it feel to never return to Earth?

Vegetable gardens tested for Mars – 10th October, 2016
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VEGETABLE GARDENS DISCUSSION

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

11. Did you like reading this article? Why/not?
12. What do you know about Mars?
13. Should money be spent on health instead of space research?
14. How will people live on Mars?
15. What is your experience of gardening?
16. What will we be doing on Mars in 100 years from now?
17. What three things would you take to Mars?
18. What are the dangers of vegetables grown on Mars?
19. How will you feel if humans get to Mars?
20. What questions would you like to ask the astronauts?

DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT A's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student B)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

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DISCUSSION (Write your own questions)

STUDENT B's QUESTIONS (Do not show these to student A)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____

LANGUAGE - CLOZE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Scientists are trying to (1) _____ humans to Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are currently trying to find (2) _____ what kind of plants could grow in the red soil on Mars. They (3) _____ that astronauts will be able to start growing their own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take (4) _____ to two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them just to last for the journey. They will never (5) _____ able to return to Earth, which means they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables and other plants from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It (6) _____ has red dust.

Humans may be on their way to Mars (7) _____ the next 15 years. NASA has been testing special "Martian gardens" to see what kind of things might grow on Mars. They have used a special soil made (8) _____ of crushed volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, so it is (9) _____ to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed to grow lettuce in it. They said the lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker (10) _____ and took longer to grow. They will now try growing other vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will (11) _____ the way for future studies and technology development in (12) _____ of reliable, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

Put the correct words from the table below in the above article.

- | | | | | |
|-----|------------|--------------|----------------|-----------|
| 1. | (a) port | (b) save | (c) make | (d) get |
| 2. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) up | (d) out |
| 3. | (a) hop | (b) hope | (c) hoop | (d) hops |
| 4. | (a) over | (b) around | (c) up | (d) about |
| 5. | (a) can | (b) is | (c) be | (d) would |
| 6. | (a) just | (b) simple | (c) everywhere | (d) lots |
| 7. | (a) on | (b) in | (c) at | (d) to |
| 8. | (a) up | (b) to | (c) by | (d) at |
| 9. | (a) likely | (b) similar | (c) liken | (d) same |
| 10. | (a) boots | (b) loots | (c) roots | (d) hoots |
| 11. | (a) tunnel | (b) concrete | (c) pave | (d) eat |
| 12. | (a) trams | (b) tames | (c) teams | (d) terms |

SPELLING

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Paragraph 1

1. the U.S. space cegya NASA
2. rlrute trying to find out
3. nosutarast will be able to start
4. The ruyjnoe to Mars
5. never be able to rntue to Earth
6. fruit, vgtslebae and other plants

Paragraph 2

7. testing iles "Martian gardens"
8. crushed cclvnoia rock
9. It contains no nutrients or oancigr material
10. scientists gmaaned to grow lettuce
11. the lettuce tasted maonlr
12. gohytne development

PUT THE TEXT BACK TOGETHER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Number these lines in the correct order.

- () to grow lettuce in it. They said the lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker roots and took
- (**1**) Scientists are trying to get humans to Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are currently
- () development in terms of reliable, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."
- () what kind of things might grow on Mars. They have used a special soil made up of crushed volcanic
- () able to start growing their own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take up to two-and-a-
- () Humans may be on their way to Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing special "Martian gardens" to see
- () because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It just has red dust.
- () own fruit, vegetables and other plants from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem
- () rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed
- () trying to find out what kind of plants could grow in the red soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will be
- () these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology
- () half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them just to last for the
- () longer to grow. They will now try growing other vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in
- () journey. They will never be able to return to Earth, which means they will need to grow their

PUT THE WORDS IN THE RIGHT ORDER

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

1. to Mars Scientists are trying to get humans .
2. soil red the in grow could plants of kind what out Find .
3. need will astronauts The them with food of lot a take to .
4. their This will grow fruit they to own means need .
5. good things have is growing doesn't that for Mars soil .
6. may 15 in way be years the to on Humans next Mars their .
7. what grow kind on of Mars things See might .
8. to managed scientists The it in lettuce grow .
9. for will future pave studies the Martian way gardens .
10. production a long way from Earth Efficient food .

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORD (20 PAIRS)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Scientists are trying to get humans to Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are *current* / *currently* trying to find out what kind of plants could *grow* / *growing* in the red soil *in* / *on* Mars. They hope that astronauts will be able to start growing *their* / *the* own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take *up* / *over* to two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with *each* / *them* just to last for the journey. They will never be able to return to Earth, which *mean* / *means* they will *need* / *needy* to grow their own fruit, vegetables and other plants from seeds. NASA said there could be a *problem* / *problems* because Mars doesn't have soil *what* / *that* is good for growing things. It just has red dust.

Humans may be on their *weigh* / *way* to Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing *specially* / *special* "Martian gardens" to see what kind of things might *grow* / *growing* on Mars. They have used a special soil made up of crushed volcanic rock. It contains *no* / *not* nutrients or organic material, so it is *similar* / *similarly* to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed to grow lettuce in it. They said the lettuce tasted *normal* / *normality*, but it had weaker roots and *got* / *took* longer to grow. They will now try growing *another* / *other* vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will *pave* / *save* the way for future studies and technology development in terms of *reliability* / *reliable*, efficient food production a long way from [Earth]."

Talk about the connection between each pair of words in italics, and why the correct word is correct.

INSERT THE VOWELS (a, e, i, o, u)

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Sc__nt__sts __r__ try__ng t__ g__t h__m__ns t__ M__rs.
R__s__rch__rs fr__m th__ __.S. sp__c__ __g__ncy N__S__ __r__
c__rr__ntly try__ng t__ f__nd __t wh__t k__nd __f pl__nts c__ld
gr__w __n th__ r__d s__l__n M__rs. Th__y h__p__ th__t
__str__n__ts w__ll b__ __bl__ t__ st__rt gr__w__ng th__r __wn
f__d __n th__ R__d Pl__nt. Th__ j__rn__y t__ M__rs c__ld t__k__
__p__ t__ tw__ -nd- -h__lf y__rs. Th__ __str__n__ts w__ll n__d
t__ t__k__ __l__t __f f__d w__th th__m j__st t__ l__st f__r th__
j__rn__y. Th__y w__ll n__v__r b__ __bl__ t__ r__t__rn t__ __rth,
wh__ch m__ns th__y w__ll n__d t__ gr__w th__r __wn fr__t,
v__g__t__bl__s __nd __th__r pl__nts fr__m s__ds. N__S__ s__d
th__r c__ld b__ __pr__bl__m b__c__s M__rs d__sn't h__v__
s__l__ th__t __s g__d f__r gr__w__ng th__ngs. __t j__st h__s r__d
d__st.

H__m__ns m__y b__ __n th__r w__y t__ M__rs __n th__ n__xt 15
y__rs. N__S__ h__s b__n t__st__ng sp__c__l "M__rt__n
g__rd__ns" t__ s__ wh__t k__nd __f th__ngs m__ght gr__w __n
M__rs. Th__y h__v__ __s__d __ sp__c__l s__l__ m__d__p__f
cr__sh__d v__lc__n__c r__ck. __t c__nt__ns n__n__tr__nts __r
__rg__n__c m__t__r__l, s__ __t__s s__m__l__r t__ th__ s__l__n
M__rs. Th__ sc__nt__sts m__n__g__d t__ gr__w l__tt__c__ __n __t.
Th__y s__d th__ l__tt__c__ t__st__d n__rm__l, b__t __t h__d
w__k__r r__ts __nd t__k__l__ng__r t__ gr__w. Th__y w__ll n__w
try gr__w__ng __th__r v__g__t__bl__s. __ N__S__ sp__k__sm__ns s__d:
"D__sc__v__r__s m__d__ __n th__s__ __rth-b__s__d 'M__rt__n
g__rd__ns' w__ll p__v__ th__ w__y f__r f__t__r__st__d__s __nd
t__chn__l__gy d__v__l__pm__nt __n t__rms __f r__l__bl__,
__ff__c__nt f__d pr__d__ct__n __l__ng w__y fr__m [__rth]."

PUNCTUATE THE TEXT AND ADD CAPITALS

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

scientists are trying to get humans to mars researchers from the us space agency nasa are currently trying to find out what kind of plants could grow in the red soil on mars they hope that astronauts will be able to start growing their own food on the red planet the journey to mars could take up to two-and-a-half years the astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them just to last for the journey they will never be able to return to earth which means they will need to grow their own fruit vegetables and other plants from seeds nasa said there could be a problem because mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things it just has red dust

humans may be on their way to mars in the next 15 years nasa has been testing special "martian gardens" to see what kind of things might grow on mars they have used a special soil made up of crushed volcanic rock it contains no nutrients or organic material so it is similar to the soil on mars the scientists managed to grow lettuce in it they said the lettuce tasted normal but it had weaker roots and took longer to grow they will now try growing other vegetables a nasa spokesman said "discoveries made in these earth-based 'martian gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology development in terms of reliable efficient food production a long way from [earth]"

PUT A SLASH (/) WHERE THE SPACES ARE

From <http://www.BreakingNewsEnglish.com/1610/161010-gardens.html>

Scientists are trying to get human to Mars. Researchers from the U.S. space agency NASA are currently trying to find out what kind of plants could grow in the red soil on Mars. They hope that astronauts will be able to start growing their own food on the Red Planet. The journey to Mars could take up to two-and-a-half years. The astronauts will need to take a lot of food with them just to last for the journey. They will never be able to return to Earth, which means they will need to grow their own fruit, vegetables and other plants from seeds. NASA said there could be a problem because Mars doesn't have soil that is good for growing things. It just has red dust. Humans may be on their way to Mars in the next 15 years. NASA has been testing special "Martian gardens" to see what kind of things might grow on Mars. They have used a special soil made up of crushed volcanic rock. It contains no nutrients or organic material, so it is similar to the soil on Mars. The scientists managed to grow lettuce in it. They said the lettuce tasted normal, but it had weaker roots and took longer to grow. They will now try growing other vegetables. A NASA spokesman said: "Discoveries made in these Earth-based 'Martian gardens' will pave the way for future studies and technology development in terms of reliable, efficient food production along with [Earth]."

HOMework

1. VOCABULARY EXTENSION: Choose several of the words from the text. Use a dictionary or Google's search field (or another search engine) to build up more associations / collocations of each word.

2. INTERNET: Search the Internet and find out more about life on Mars. Share what you discover with your partner(s) in the next lesson.

3. VEGETABLE GARDENS: Make a poster about vegetable gardens on Mars. Show your work to your classmates in the next lesson. Did you all have similar things?

4. MARS: Write a magazine article about spending money on going to Mars. Include imaginary interviews with people who are for and against this.

Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Write down any new words and expressions you hear from your partner(s).

5. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT? Write a newspaper article about the next stage in this news story. Read what you wrote to your classmates in the next lesson. Give each other feedback on your articles.

6. LETTER: Write a letter to an expert on vegetable gardens on Mars. Ask him/her three questions about them. Give him/her three of your ideas on what humans can do to survive on Mars. Read your letter to your partner(s) in your next lesson. Your partner(s) will answer your questions.

ANSWERS

TRUE / FALSE (p.4)

a T b F c T d T e F f F g T h F

SYNONYM MATCH (p.4)

1.trying

2.find out

3.journey

4.last

5.soil

6.next

7.contains

8.material

9.pave the way

10.reliable

a.attempting

b.discover

c.trip

d.keep going

e.earth

f.upcoming

g.has

h.stuff

i.prepare

j.safe

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS (p.8)

1. Scientists
2. The Red Planet
3. Up to 2½ years
4. Seeds
5. Good soil
6. 15 years
7. Volcanic rock
8. Lettuce
9. The roots
10. Food production

MULTIPLE CHOICE - QUIZ (p.9)

1. h 2. e 3. b 4. j 5. c 6. g 7. a 8. f 9. d 10. i

ALL OTHER EXERCISES

Please check for yourself by looking at the Article on page 2.
(It's good for your English ;-)