**Actuele lesbrief Engels – Mission to Mars**

**Voor de docent**

Deze maand is de nieuwe verkenner van de NASA veilig geland op Mars. De onbemande robot moet helpen vaststellen of op Mars ooit leven mogelijk is geweest.

**ERK-niveau**

Lezen B1 – *Lezen om informatie op te doen: LEB1-3a Kan belangrijke feitelijke informatie begrijpen in korte verslagen en artikelen.  (LEB1-3a)*

Leesstrategieën - *Kan de betekenis van zo nu en dan voorkomende onbekende woorden afleiden uit de context en de betekenis van zinnen herleiden, op voorwaarde dat het besproken onderwerp bekend is.*

**Intro**

NASA’s newest rover, Perseverance, landed on Mars on 18 February 2021.

Assignment 1

Read the assignment and write down the answers in English. You may use English-language Internet sources to help you.

a Until 2009 there were officially 9 planets in the solar system. Then scientists said Pluto was ‘just’ a dwarf planet. Name the 8 remaining planets in our solar system.

b Write down five or more words related to space and space travel.

**Mission to Mars**

NASA’s newest rover, Perseverance, landed on Mars on 18 February 2021.

Read all about it [here](https://teachingkidsnews.com/2021/02/21/perseverance-rover-starts-sample-return-mission-on-mars/).

Assignment 2

Read the text. Connect the words and expressions that have the same meaning in the text.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. rover | 1. a chemical that is found in the air, that has no colour, taste, or smell, and that is necessary for life |
| 1. two-year mission | 1. to examine something to find out what it is or what makes it work |
| 1. signs of ancient life | 1. the gas that is formed when people and animals breathe out; CO2 |
| 1. nicknamed | 1. given a name that is not someone’s or something’s real name |
| 1. samples | 1. a job or task that lasts two years |
| 1. tubes | 1. kept in its original state or in good condition |
| 1. spacecraft | 1. a large area of water that is surrounded by land |
| 1. analyze | 1. long thin containers used to store things |
| 1. fossil | 1. a mark of a plant or animal which lived a very long time ago and that you can see in earth or rock |
| 1. microbes | 1. marks showing that something else existed thousands of years ago |
| 1. lake | 1. a motorized vehicle designed to travel across the surface of a planet |
| 1. preserved | 1. a person, boat, or plane that collects information or searches an area |
| 1. scout | 1. small amounts of something that give information about the thing it was taken from |
| 1. oxygen | 1. a vehicle that is used for travel in outer space |
| 1. carbon dioxide | 1. very small living things that can only be seen with a microscope |

Assignment 3

a Why has the NASA sent Perseverance to Mars?

1 To find out how fast a rover can reach Mars.

2 To help the astronauts living on Mars.

3 To look for signs of life on the planet.

4 To take water from a lake and put it in tubes.

b Which statements fit the NASA rover Perseverance?

1 The largest rover NASA has sent to Mars

2 About the size of a drone

3 Weighs more than 1000 kilograms

4 Has more cameras than any other rover

5 First rover to send colour pictures from Mars

6 Will later help astronauts living on Mars

7 Has two microphones

8 First flying machine sent to Mars

c What will MOXIE do on Mars?

1 It will analyze rock and soil to see if they contain any signs of life.

2 It will collect samples of rock, soil and carbon dioxide and store them in tubes.

3 It will pick up samples of rock and soil and bring them back to earth.

4 It will try to change the carbon dioxide of Mars into air humans can breathe.

Assignment 4

Want to know more? Check out [this other text about the Perseverance](https://www.onderwijsvanmorgen.nl/act-engels/perseverance/).