

This House Supports a Manned Mission to Mars

Fact: Known as the 'Red Planet', Mars is the planet in our Solar System closest to Earth.

Fact: There have been several unmanned missions to Mars, but as yet no manned mission.

Fact: In 2011, Russia tested a simulation of a manned Mars mission with robots.

Fact: The biggest obstacle to a manned mission to Mars is how to get fuel for the return journey. Current ideas revolve around harvesting Mars for fuel, perhaps using water on Mars?

Fact: Private companies have also entered the race for a manned mission. Mars One, a Dutch company, claims it will be ready to put a human on Mars by 2023.

- Is exploring space important for its own sake? Or does it only matter if it can help mankind?
- Will a manned mission distract from other, more useful space missions?
- Can humans ever get to Mars, or is it a pointless goal?
- Given how many recent space missions have ended in tragedy, is it safe?
- Would sending humans to Mars inspire others to want to go into space?
- A Mars mission would undoubtedly be very expensive. Is it worth it?
- Manned space missions gave us many useful innovations, including teflon for non-stick frying pans. Would sending a human to Mars have similar benefits?
- In the 1960s, America and Russia entered a 'Space Race' as part of the Cold War between the two countries. Will a manned mission to Mars encourage dangerous competition, or could it be an opportunity for co-operation?