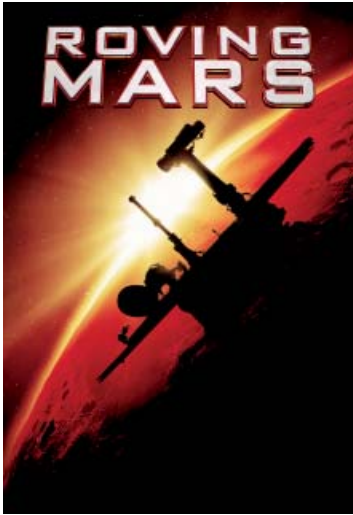


SCHOOL FILM SYNOPSIS

ROVING MARS



Is there life on Mars? That is one of the questions posed by this IMAX film, which details the journey of Spirit and Opportunity, two Rovers exploring the Red Planet.

This is more than a traditional documentary about the planet Mars – this extraordinary film documents the design and construction process involved in getting the Rovers from the floor in the lab to the surface of another world.

In addition to footage sent back to earth by the Rovers, the film also features spectacular footage shot at the Cape Canaveral rocket launches in June/July 2003 and a breath-taking animation showing the rocket's path through space. Interestingly, parts of Antarctica were used as a double for Mars during filming!

Some of the key themes covered in the film include:

- The process of designing and constructing the two Mars Rovers
- Challenges faced by scientists, engineers and designers during the design & construction phase
- The technology used to propel the Rovers into space & ensure a safe, successful landing on Mars
- The exploratory techniques employed by the Rovers to gather data and images about Mars
- The importance of teamwork and collaboration in working towards a common goal



The Mars Mission:

Primary among the Mission's scientific goals is to search for and characterize a wide range of rocks and soils that hold clues to past water activity on Mars.

RATED G

Running Time: 45 Minutes

ROVING MARS represents not only a scientific breakthrough and a record of a magnificently successful mission, but also a keenly personal look at a place that narrator and Chief Mission Scientists Steve Squyres knows very well.

"We really feel like we've gotten to know the place," he says. "We've seen Mars in all its seasons. I know what it looks like at sunrise, I know what it looks like at sunset. I know what happens in the middle of the day, I know what it's like in late afternoon, I know what it's like at night. We've been to so many places on Mars and experienced it in such a vicarious and yet, at the same time, real way through the eyes of these robots that we sort of feel like we've been there."

And now, through the marvellous—even miraculous—images of ROVING MARS on the IMAX screen, the rest of us can feel as if we've been there too. **Film website:** <http://disney.go.com/disneypictures/rovingmars/>

Curriculum Links: Stage 2-3: Science & Technology: Out in Space. Also links well with the **Stage 2 COGs unit "Machines"**.

Stage 4-5: Science (space exploration, travel, components of the universe, the solar system) Design & Technology: The design process.

Stage 6: Senior Science; Physics; Engineering Science

Some comments from teachers:

"***** (5 stars) The IMAX format really sets it apart from conventional Mars stuff... the format brings everything to life – it creates real experiences".
Pearl, Riverside GHS.

"Truly inspirational in showing the ingenuity and creativity of the human mind". D. Beaumont, Epping Boys HS

IMAX School Bookings

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