



World Space Week 2005 Fact Sheet

What is World Space Week?

In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly announced that World Space Week would be held every year from 4-10 October, marking the anniversary of the launch of the first man-made satellite, Sputnik 1, on 4 October 1957. The aim of World Space Week is to celebrate science and technology and promote the benefits of space programs to humankind. World Space Week is an excellent opportunity to inform students about the scope and uses of space programmes. The theme for World Space Week 2005 is "Discovery and Imagination".

How do space programmes help life on Earth?

Satellite programmes allow us to do things that are impossible from Earth, and are used to observe Earth and send information to different parts of the world. They are used to monitor the weather and environmental change because they look at the entire globe and can monitor the same areas over a long period of time.

Satellites are useful during emergencies and natural disasters because they can send and receive information very quickly. Satellites can also be used for activities such as navigation, mapping and communications.

Satellites help provide information to remote areas and poorer countries that don't have access to many technologies. They can help less developed countries by providing information and forecasting crop cycles and helping countries bypass several stages of technology that are normally needed for development.

What is the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs?

Located at the United Nations Office at Vienna, Austria, the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (OOSA) has four main objectives:

- ⇒ To promote international cooperation in using space technology for sustainable development and managing Earth's environment;
- ⇒ To help establish laws and regulations governing space activities;
- ⇒ To help carry out the recommendations of major UN global conferences;
- ⇒ To help developing countries use space technology.

OOSA provides services to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, which is the UN General Assembly's only committee dealing exclusively with international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

OOSA implements the UN Programme on Space Applications by providing technical assistance to Member States to improve the use of space science and technology for social and economic development.

How can schools participate in World Space Week 2005?

Please check the attached guidelines for a school project "Design of a Mars base".