

Choose the Crew! - All

(30 minutes)



Introduction:

Choose the Crew! is designed to be a follow-up activity to the *Who Will Go To Mars?* activity (found later in this guide). In this lesson, students are asked to work together to choose a team of astronauts to go to Mars. In the *Who Will Go To Mars?* activity students designed a checklist of human qualities that would be beneficial in a long duration journey. That checklist will be used to decide who will be selected for the crew.

Most of the biographical sketches in this lesson are based on actual biographies of real human beings, some living, some deceased. Students should not know this information prior to choosing their Mars teams. It will be fun to share who the team members actually are, with the students, upon completion of this activity.

Objective:

The student will:

- illustrate critical thinking skills by choosing a crew of 4 to travel to Mars, based on predetermined criteria (student-created checklist).

Materials:

- *Choose the Crew!* Student Sheets: *Biographical sketches*
- Student-created checklist from *Who Will Go To Mars?*
- Pencil

Procedure:

1. Divide students into groups of 3 to 4 (maintain groups from the *Who Will Go to Mars?* activity if possible) and distribute *Choose the Crew!* sheets.
2. Have students use the checklist they created to choose 4 crewmembers who will travel to Mars. Students must be prepared to defend their final choices.

For the Teacher:

Answer Key:

#1	Oprah Winfrey	#6	Martin Luther King, Jr.
#2	John Glenn	#7	Colin Powell
#3	Hillary Clinton	#8	Doug Flutie
#4	Christa McAuliffe	#9	Homer Simpson
#5	Marie Curie	#10	Ronald McNair

References:

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Choose the Crew!

The following biographical sketches are of candidates who NASA has qualified to go to Mars! You do not need to be concerned about their scientific qualification. NASA has determined that each of the candidates is fully skilled and capable to travel to Mars.

Task:

As a member of the NASA Space Psychology team, your job is to:
Read each biography and discuss each candidate's personality traits with your team. What personal attributes will each astronaut need?

1. Use the checklist you developed from the *Who Will Go To Mars?* activity to help you make your decisions.
2. You are then to choose a team of four crewmembers who will make the journey to Mars.
3. Be prepared to defend your decisions.
4. Remember! The survival of the crew and the ultimate success of the mission depend on you!



Biographical Sketches:

Notes:

Biography #1

Single African American Woman in mid-forties. Overcame adversity as a young child to forge a successful career in the field of communications. Persuasive personality. Upbeat and positive attitude. Seeks the high road in her vision of life. Supporter of educational programs and has sponsored bills in Congress in support of children. Works at being physically and spiritually fit and encourages others to do the same. Makes strong connections with other people.

Biography #2

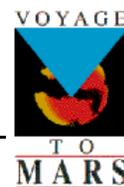
Married white male and former marine instructor in advanced light training. Requested combat duty and won the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medal. Member of the astronaut corps. Excellent physical condition. Active in environmental protection efforts and public service activities. Considered an expert on technical and scientific matters and respected for his work to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

Biography #3

Married white female. Background in law. Has worked tirelessly on behalf of children and families. Chaired an education committee that set public school standards in her state. Has been named Woman of the Year and Mother of the Year. Great communicator. Strong-willed and capable. Strong leadership abilities. Loyal. Excellent student, Girl Scout, enjoys sports and interested in politics.

Biography #4

White female, married. Excellent communicator. Involved in education. High aspirations. Model teacher. High achiever. Mother of two children. Risk taker. Former Girl Scout and Girl Scout Leader. Positive attitude. Has taught in public high school for a number of years.



Biography #5

European woman brought up in a family that valued education. Studied mathematics, chemistry and physics. Won prizes for her work in chemistry. Dedicated to her work. Married. Taught at the university level. Risk taker. Feels at home in a laboratory. Life-long learner.

Notes:

Biography #6

Black male, married. Father of 4 children. Has vision for establishing a better world. Politically savvy. Advocate of inclusion. Steady, non-violent philosophy. Ordained minister. Self-confident. Beliefs based on those of Henry David Thoreau and Mahandas Ghandi. Strong leadership qualities. Strong aspirations. Ability to inspire others. Strong communication skills.

Biography #7

Black male, married. Military background. Has a vision for the future. Strong advocate for volunteerism. Excellent organizational skills. Strong leadership abilities. Excellent communication skills. Strong family ties. Has been awarded an honorary knighthood by Britain. Politically savvy.

Biography #8

White male, married. Athletic. Described as nimble and brainy as well as daring and imaginative. Has an ability to make things happen. Record setter. Strong leadership abilities. Affable. Physically fit. High morals. Avid volunteer for a number of causes. Devoted family man. Definitely not a quitter.

Biography #9

White male, married. Devoted father of three. Family oriented. Experienced with nuclear power apparatus. Has had orbital experience. Unpretentious. Sense of humor. Has fraternal affiliations. Congenial.



Biography #10

Black male, married. Excelled academically. Ph.D. in physics. Father of two. Athletic with a black belt in karate. Strong leadership capabilities. Sense of humor. Plays saxophone. Volunteers in a number of youth organizations. High achiever.

Notes: