



Lesson Plan: Mars

Teacher Name:	Lena Doubivko
Grade or Level:	High school to early college
Language(s):	Russian
Target Proficiency Level:	Intermediate or higher in Speaking/Listening Novice Mid or higher in Reading/Writing
Age of Students:	15-21

A. Theme

This is the umbrella theme that frames the lesson and provides context for language and culture learning.

Unit Title: Voyage to Mars
Lesson Title: Mars: The Mysterious Red Planet

B. Enduring Understandings and Essential Questions for your Theme

<p>Students will understand that...</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Why scientists are so interested to study Mars 2) The history of Martian observation begins several thousand years ago 3) Missions to Mars using rockets, orbiters, rovers and probes were both disastrous and successful <p>Essential Questions</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Why is it so difficult to explore Mars? 2) How does technology allow us to study Mars? 3) What is the role of engineers in the exploration of Mars?
--

C. Standards and Expected Outcomes—Can-Do Statements

What will students know and be able to do in the target language and culture? Identify what students will do in terms of the standards. Ideally, all standards will be addressed, but there may be exceptions depending on the type of program that is being offered.

Standards Targeted	Students Can
Communication – Interpretive (Reading)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read for just authentic materials from diverse web sites, f.e. Martian Portal (a comprehensive site with technical information on Mars) • Find essential information in the distributed texts and answer questions, locate correct answers in the exercise • Familiarize with terms related to Mars exploration (планета, спутник, наблюдение, поверхность, температура, атмосфера, исследование, экспедиция, etc.)
Communication – Interpretive (Listening)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to the fellow students delivering information on Mars exploration
Communication - Interpersonal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask questions and understand answers about the environment on Mars, the stages of the Mars exploration and technology used in the Mars exploration using the appropriate terminology
Communication - Presentational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly present orally essential information from the Moscow Astronauts Museum and Mars Exploration Conference games
Cultures	<p>2.1 Practices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate appropriate understanding of the USA and Russian perspectives on the Mars exploration <p>2.2 Products</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understand the historical context and explore Russian authentic sources about the Mars exploration
Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make connections to History, Math, Astronomy and Film
Comparisons	Compare Russian and American points of view on Mars as a myth

Standards Targeted	Students Can
Community	Can discuss with native Russian speakers such as students' family members and friends the content of the text on Mars given to the students the day before the lesson
Others: (such as STEM)	Develop knowledge of and skills in STEM topics: such as planetary system, use of numerals and basic terminology in engineering and astronomy.

D. Materials & Other Resources

Describe the primary resources that you plan to use for the lesson.

Resources	Description
Title of textbook, if applicable	N/A
Realia / Authentic materials	Martian Portal (Всё о планете Марс), other relevant sites, Russian on-line video samples from youtube, pictures of Soviet, Russian, American, Japanese and European flybys, orbiters, landers and rovers
Multimedia / Technology	Power Point Presentation, on-line video samples from youtube in Russian

E. Detailed Lesson plan (one class period)

Time	Teacher Activity	Student Activity	Rationale	Assessment (how will you know students are learning?)
2 min	Introduction of the topic	Watching the clip, listening	Setting the goal of the lesson	
5 min	Encouraging the students to share with classmates what they already knew about Mars and have learned about Red Planet from the previously distributed text	Briefly sharing (orally presenting) with peers and teacher what they found out	Activating previous knowledge	The students give adequate responses about the topic
1 min	Reviewing vocabulary related to Mars exploration, such планета, спутник, поверхность, температура, атмосфера, исследование, экспедиция, ect.	Briefly sharing with peers what they already knew	Adding and extending students' vocabulary related to the topic	The students start using new words
25 min	Start the Moscow Astronauts Museum game. Tell the students about this museum. Pick 7 students to be curators of the museum, distribute	Listening, asking questions if necessarily, doing a matching exercise	Describing an activity, extending the students' knowledge about prehistory of Mars exploration,	Answer the questions correctly, demonstrating orally that they understood the new material

Time	Teacher Activity	Student Activity	Rationale	Assessment (how will you know students are learning?)
	<p>the reading materials about prehistory of Mars exploration to them. Distribute the exercise of matching facts to the rest of the class. Instruct the curators to read their material aloud and the rest of the class to do the matching exercise. After all the info has been read aloud, the curators throw a Mars ball to the random students from the class to check for the information.</p>		<p>expanding their vocabulary</p>	
<p>30 min</p>	<p>Play the Mars Exploration Conference game. Organize the students in groups. Give them identification signs. Distribute the reading materials about different missions to Mars. Distribute worksheets and ask the students to find key information on</p>	<p>Students work together in groups: read, find essential information in the articles (failures and successes of Martian missions), discuss this information in groups, briefly present it orally in class</p>	<p>Practice read and find essential information about the topic, learn to communicate with partners about Space Exploration, learn to present essential information</p>	<p>Students work together, find the essential information and briefly present it orally to class</p>

Time	Teacher Activity	Student Activity	Rationale	Assessment (how will you know students are learning?)
	successes and failures of the missions.			
6 min	Show to the students a video of Spirit/Opportunity rover (2003) landing to Mars	Enjoy the clip!	Make a visual connection from the texts read	Observe the level of excitement 😊
1 min	Conclusion			

F. Reflect, in a paragraph or two, how your lesson follows the principles and techniques of a communicative approach to language teaching.

This lesson has used all three standards of Communication mode: *interpretive*, *interpersonal* and *presentational*. Interpretive standard was used when the students read (listened), understood and interpreted written and spoken Russian language used in the authentic Russian texts, read in groups or aloud by their peers. Interpersonal communication was used when the students were engaged in discussion, asking each other questions, and looking for answers in the distributed texts. And finally, presentational standard was used when the students presented the key elements on the information read.