



Astronauts last visited the Moon in 1972. Humans have not visited any of the other planets or moons in the Solar System. Space probes have landed on several planets and moons, and have passed close to many others. The space probes all return images and other information to scientists on the Earth.

Many people think that astronauts should be sent to Mars, but others disagree. The cards at the bottom of the page present parts of an argument on this topic.

- 1 Cut out the cards and sort them into order to make an argument in favour of sending humans to explore Mars. Check the order of your sentences with other students until you agree on the best order.
- 2 A good scientific argument consists of a key point, an objection, a counterargument and a conclusion. Evidence or reasoning should be given to support the key points, objection and counterargument. Use different coloured pencils to show these different sections in your argument.
- 3 The speech bubbles show some other reasons for or against sending astronauts to Mars. Use some of these sentences to help you to write a paragraph to argue either for sending humans, or against sending humans. The box shows some conjunctions that you can use to link sentences in your paragraph.

Space travel is dangerous and astronauts will have to be protected against radiation and the effects of weightlessness.

**Conjunctions that signal a counterargument**  
however      but      although

**Conjunctions that signal a conclusion**  
therefore      so      thus

There are plenty of volunteers willing to accept a risky journey if it means they can visit Mars.

Astronauts can make decisions on the spot if anything goes wrong.

We can afford to send many space probes to different parts of Mars for the same cost as sending one team of astronauts.

**I can...**

- construct arguments
- identify the parts of an argument.

- A Many people say it will be too expensive to send astronauts.
- B However, the public are more interested in human stories.
- C They will be more willing to allow tax money to be spent on sending astronauts than on sending space probes.
- D It does cost much more to send people than to send space probes.
- E Astronauts visiting the Moon made many scientific observations and brought back rock samples.
- F So sending astronauts would be best.
- G Other planets can be explored by sending humans or space probes.