

# Who Will Go To Mars?

*“The Earth is the cradle of mankind, but one cannot remain in the cradle forever.”*  
-Konstantin Tsiolkovsky

## Introduction

A voyage to Mars from Earth and back again will take approximately 2.5 years (which is about the same amount of time that it took early explorers to sail around the world). During that time crewmembers will be isolated in small, confined spaces. The only humans they will have direct contact with will be each other. Contact with Earth will be limited.

**How will we choose the crews that will travel to Mars?**

## Task

As a member of a team of NASA space psychologists your assignment is to answer the question:

***What characteristics and qualities must a person possess to be chosen as a crewmember for a journey to Mars?***

- ❖ What should you look for in a leader, in a team member?
- ❖ If there is conflict, how will it be resolved?
- ❖ How will the qualities of each person mesh with the others?

It is your responsibility to determine which characteristics you are looking for in crew members and which characteristics might eliminate a person from being selected for a long duration space mission. Be prepared to present your findings to the NASA Life Sciences Development team.

## Information Sources

1. Crew Selection and Space Psychology
2. Life and Microgravity Sciences and Applications – Behavior and Performance
3. Space Academy Selection and Training Astronauts

<http://library.thinkquest.org/12145/crew.htm>

## Process

As a NASA space psychologist you must determine the criteria that NASA will use in the astronaut crew selection process for interplanetary travel. You will need to decide what qualities to look for and how many people the crew should include. Create a checklist of qualities you are looking for and a second checklist of qualities that would not be beneficial in a long duration journey. *We will use your checklist to select a crew.*

## Learning Advice

Crew selection for an interplanetary flight will be very important to the success of the mission. In addition to having the skills necessary to conduct research and build and/or repair a Mars base, the crew will have to get along with one another. Another good resource that you might find in the library is Bold Endeavors by Jack Stuster.

## Conclusion

Hopefully, you now have a better understanding what type of people will be needed to make a trip to Mars. What personal qualifications do you possess that might make you a likely candidate?

