



Martian landscape

Journey to Mars

time

35 & 30
minutes, spread
across two days

learning outcomes

- To know that:
- there are rocks on the planet's surface
 - there is a large mountain on Mars
 - the soil on Mars is reddish brown
 - there are no plants or trees growing on Mars
 - the surface of Mars looks very different from the surface of the Earth

materials needed

- photograph of Martian landscape (Appendix)
- photograph of the Earth's landscape (Appendix)
- photograph of Olympus Mons (Appendix)
- self-hardening white modelling clay or modelling paper such as papier-mâché (optional: gravel and stones)
- brushes
- red and brown paint

end product

- a clay or papier-mâché model of a Martian landscape

Preparation

For the activity **Mars** you will need the photographs of the Martian landscape, the Earth's landscape, and the Olympus Mons from the Appendix.



Mars 15 min.

Sit in a circle with the children and ask if they have ever heard of the planet Mars. Show the children the photograph of the Martian landscape. Ask them what they can see on the photo. Do they see that the planet is reddish brown? That the surface is rocky and that there is a very big mountain? Explain that the mountain is so wide that it would take you a whole afternoon to drive from one side to the other! The top of the mountain is 2.5 times higher than an aeroplane flies.

Show the photograph of the Earth's landscape. Ask the children what differences they can see between the two landscapes. Explain clearly that there are no plants, trees or grass growing on Mars, unlike the Earth where these things grow almost everywhere. The Martian landscape looks most like a desert!



The children discover what the Martian landscape looks like.

Good to know

This mountain is a very high volcano. This volcano is called Olympus Mons and it is 25 kilometres high and about 624 kilometres wide.



Make a Martian landscape 20 min.

Give each child a lump of clay or papier-mâché and encourage them to make the surface of Mars.

Help the children to make the volcano and the rocks; gravel and stones can also be used. Label each landscape with the child's name and put them in a safe place to dry. Leave the clay to dry for one day.

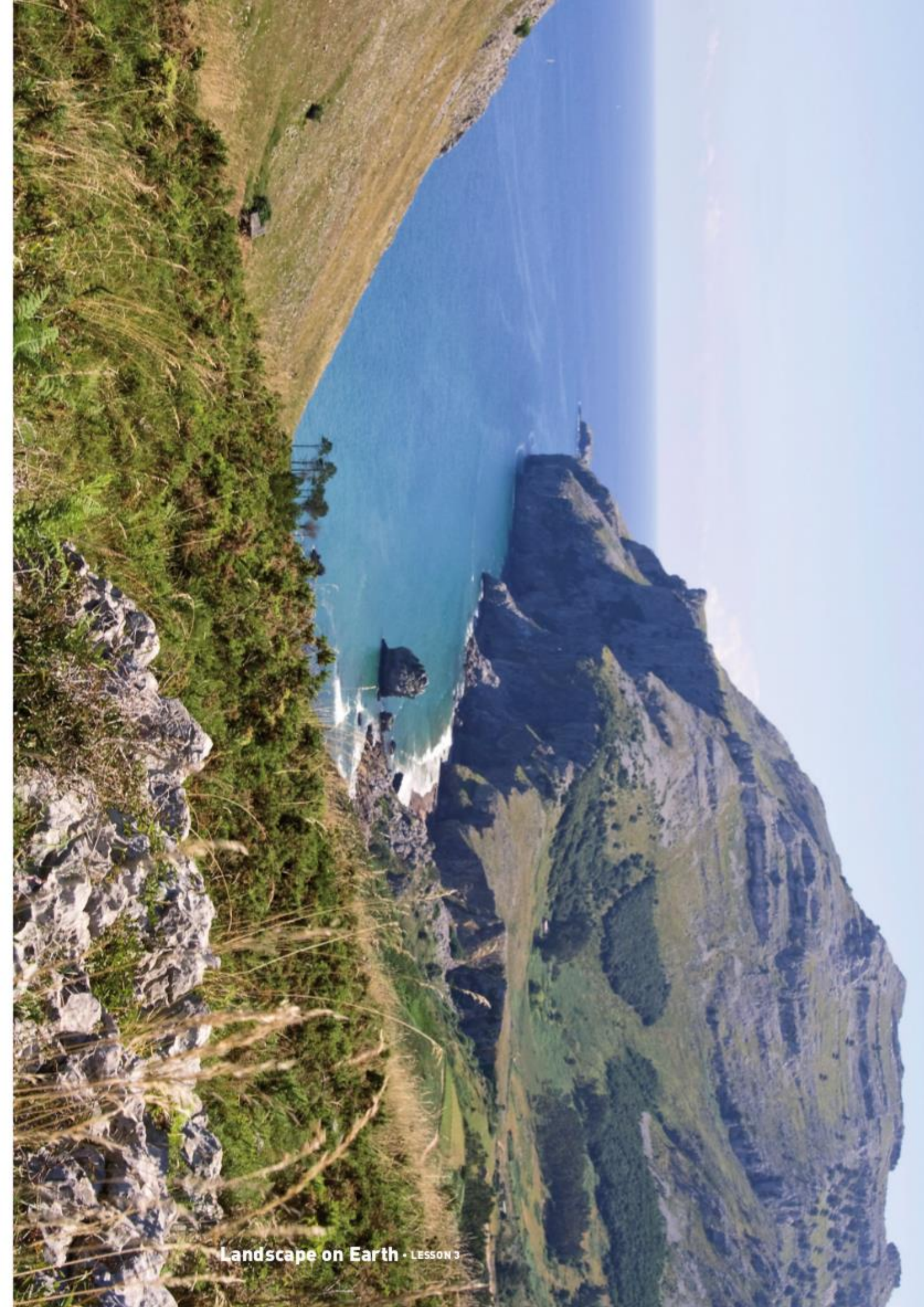
Paint the Martian landscape 25 min.

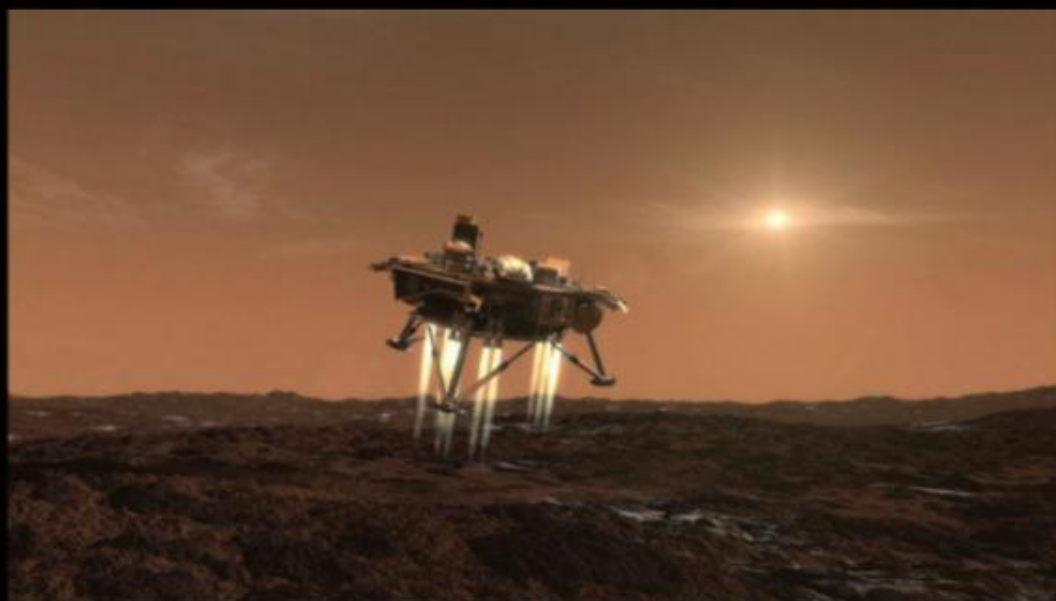
After a day the clay has dried to become hard and white. But in real life the Martian landscape is reddish-brown, not white, so the children need to paint their landscapes reddish brown. Give each child a paintbrush, paint and their own landscape.



Mars and Earth 5 min.

Ask the children what they have learned about Mars. What differences do they know between the planet Earth and the planet Mars? Does the Earth have any mountains or volcanoes as high as on Mars?





Olympus Mons · Mars Lander · LESSON 3