

Oral Reading Test

- ▶ Someday, people might be able to visit Mars. Scientists are getting closer and closer to that goal. But there are many challenges ahead. Here is one of them: What will people eat? It might be a long time before the first person lands on Mars, but scientists are already working on this problem.

A trip to Mars and back would be very long. Just getting there would take six months! Of course, there are no grocery stores or farms in space. This means that astronauts must find other ways to get food. The food must be nutritious to keep astronauts healthy. And it should be tasty, too.

One way astronauts could get food is to bring it with them from Earth, like astronauts do today. But the food and its packaging would be very heavy. It would also need to stay fresh for a long time. Astronauts could bring packaged food on a trip to Mars, but they will also need other kinds of food.

That is why scientists are experimenting with “space gardening.” They are developing new technology that could allow astronauts to grow food on Mars. Scientists think that foods like strawberries, peppers, lettuce, and onions would grow well outside of Earth. Astronauts could also grow potatoes, wheat, rice, and beans. The astronauts would also have a kitchen. They would use special equipment to make bread and pasta.

The possibility of growing foods on Mars is exciting. Think about it. In the future, you could be enjoying a plate of pasta with tomato sauce or a fresh salad. And someone on Mars could be eating the same thing!