

UAE's historic mission to Mars under way

22nd July, 2020



Image: Emirates Mars Mission

The space agency of the United Arab Emirates has launched its historic first mission to Mars. The UAE launched its Hope probe on an H2-A rocket from a spaceport

in Japan on Monday. The probe is on an incredible 500-million-km journey to study the weather and climate on the Red Planet. Hope is scheduled to arrive in Mars' orbit in February 2021, to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the formation of the UAE. The Emirates Mars Mission will stay in the Martian orbit for 687 days. It will collect data samples of the Martian atmosphere to analyse. Scientists in Dubai hope their findings will add to our understanding of how Mars lost a lot of its air and water, as well as springing up a few surprises.

The UAE has joined the ranks of long-established pioneering space giants such as the USA, Russia, China, India and Japan. Entering the field of space exploration is a testament to the ambitions of this young country. The Khaleej Times newspaper explained how momentous the Hope probe is for the UAE. It wrote: "It's an understatement to say that the UAE made history last night. By using history as a springboard, the UAE has catapulted itself and along with it the world into the future - a future of insight and intelligence, beyond mere imagination. For more than 400 million Arabs in the world, one hour, 58 minutes and 14 seconds past midnight last night was a moment that epitomised an eternity."

Sources: bbc.com / khaleejtimes.com / thenational.ae

Writing

Exploring space is the greatest thing a nation can do. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

space / agency / historic / mission / rocket / spaceport / anniversary / surprises / ranks / giants / exploration / ambitions / probe / springboard / future / intelligence

True / False

- a) The UAE has launched its second mission to Mars. T / F
- b) The voyage to Mars is around 500,000,000km. T / F
- c) The arrival of the probe should coincide with the UAE's 50th anniversary. T / F
- d) The probe will investigate how Mars lost all its air and water. T / F
- e) The article said the UAE is not yet a pioneering space giant. T / F
- f) The article said the probe is a sign of how ambitious the UAE is. T / F
- g) A newspaper called the launch an overstatement. T / F
- h) The newspaper said the launch epitomised an eternity for Arabs. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. historic | a. innovative |
| 2. scheduled | b. specimens |
| 3. formation | c. awareness |
| 4. samples | d. momentous |
| 5. springing up | e. propelled |
| 6. pioneering | f. a long time |
| 7. field | g. establishment |
| 8. catapulted | h. planned |
| 9. insight | i. creating |
| 10. eternity | j. sphere |

Discussion – Student A

- a) How important is space exploration?
- b) How historic is the UAE's mission to Mars?
- c) Should all countries have a space programme?
- d) What do you know about Mars?
- e) What do you know about the United Arab Emirates?
- f) What would you like the UAE's probe to find?
- g) How will the UAE mission help people on Earth?
- h) How likely it is we will be living on Mars one day?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. The space agency of the | a. the Martian atmosphere |
| 2. The probe is on an incredible | b. up a few surprises |
| 3. stay in the Martian | c. eternity |
| 4. collect data samples of | d. pioneering space giants |
| 5. as well as springing | e. orbit for 687 days |
| 6. joined the ranks of long-established | f. and intelligence |
| 7. a testament to the ambitions | g. United Arab Emirates |
| 8. the UAE has catapulted | h. of this young country |
| 9. a future of insight | i. 500-million-km journey |
| 10. a moment that epitomised an | j. itself |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What does it mean to the UAE to belong to the space club?
- What ambitions does your country have?
- What is the most momentous occasion in your country's history?
- What do you imagine the future will be like?
- What can other countries learn from the UAE's vision?
- Why did the launch epitomise 'an eternity' for 400 millions Arabs?
- What questions would you like to ask the Emirates Mars Mission?

Spelling

- lnauhdc its historic first mission to Mars
- a cprpsaeto in Japan
- an incredible 500-million-km enoyujr
- Hope is eudsehdcl to arrive
- stay in the Martian rbtoi for 687 days
- collect data samples of the Martian mtsoepearh
- pioneinreg space giants
- temtentas to the ambitions of this young country
- how uonsmmtoe the Hope probe is for the UAE
- the UAE has ucatdtplea itself
- a future of shtniig and intelligence
- a moment that epitomised an nreittey

Answers – Synonym Match

1. d	2. h	3. g	4. b	5. i
6. a	7. j	8. e	9. c	10. f

Role Play

Role A – Space Exploration

You think space exploration is the most important national ambition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ambitions. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a great education system, 100 equality or sporting prowess.

Role B – A Great Education System

You think a great education system is the most important national ambition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ambitions. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): space exploration, 100 equality or sporting prowess.

Role C – 100% Equality

You think 100 equality is the most important national ambition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ambitions. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a great education system, space exploration or sporting prowess.

Role D – Sporting Prowess

You think sporting prowess is the most important national ambition. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ambitions. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): a great education system, 100 equality or space exploration.

Speaking – Ambitions

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important ambitions from a nation at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| • Health system | • Space exploration |
| • Sporting prowess | • Human rights |
| • The arts | • No poverty |
| • 100% equality | • Education system |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.