

Living on Mars

This week we interview Alex Newton. Alex is an astronomer and scientist. And he believes there will be a human base on Mars before the end of the century.

1 Read the article and match the headings with the paragraphs.

- a How is Mars similar to Earth?
- b Why will humans live on other planets?
- c Would you like to live on Mars?
- d So how will people live?
- e Will we be able to live on Mars?
- f Why do you think they will live on Mars?

The world population is growing very fast. At the moment it is about 7 billion. That's 7,000,000,000. It will be 10.5 billion by 2050. So I think humans will live on other planets to have more space and to get the food and water they need. They will also want to find important things such as metals.



Alex

2 First of all, it is the closest planet to Earth. Secondly, it is the planet most similar to Earth in the solar system.

3 Mars has seasons like summer and winter. It also has clouds. And we think it has water, too. A day on Mars is only 37 minutes longer than a day on Earth. But a year takes 687 days!

4 Yes, we will. However, we won't be able to breathe on the planet. There isn't enough oxygen. And it's also very cold. The average temperature is -63°C! So people will wear space suits when they go outside their special buildings.



5 People will live under large domes. In these buildings, people will grow all the food they need. They will go outside to get important metals such as iron and aluminium.

6 Yes, I would. I think it will be a great adventure. I'm only 35 now, so I hope it will happen in my life!

2 Read the article again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?
Correct the false information.

2 Alex thinks people will go into space because there won't be enough food and water on Earth.

3 Mars is the planet nearest the Earth.

4 A day on Mars is shorter than a day on Earth.

5 A year on Mars is longer than a year on Earth.

6 It is much colder on Mars than on Earth.

7 People will have to live in special buildings on Mars.

8 People will get the food they need from Earth.