Lucia W - Science Talent Search 2023 – Cover Page and Written Report

Category I have chosen – Computer Programs – Games and Simulations

Cover Page

- ○ **Title** – "Should we put people on Mars to live?"

- ○ **Science Topic** – Putting people of Mars. I chose my own topic because we learned about it at school and it was interesting.

- ○ **Web link to my computer game** - https://scratch.mit.edu/projects/874991973

- ○ **Programming Language used** – Scratch

- ○ **Operating System used** – web based. This game has been made for use on laptops and devices with a keyboard.

- ○ **Instructions on how to play the game** (below)

The person playing the game needs to open the web link (above) and click on the green flag icon.

The game starts by meeting Dot the Dog who tells the player some people are interested in putting people on Mars to live.

The player then clicks to take a journey with Dot and find out more about Planet Mars, reasons to put people on Mars to live and reasons not to put people on Mars to live.

The player finishes once they have learned all the information, by making a decision whether they think we should put people on Mars or not.

Written Report

    ○   **Describe your program**

The program is a fun and interactive game to help people learn more about Mars, and some reasons to put people on Mars to live and some reasons not to put people on Mars to live. The player then has to make their mind up on whether we should put people on Mars on not. This game has been made for use on laptops and devices with a keyboard.

    ○   **What does the user do?**

The person playing the game is guided by a Dog called Dot on an interactive journey to find out more about:
- Planet Mars
- Reasons to put people on Mars to live
- Reasons not to put people on Mars to live
The player finishes once they have learned all the information, by making a decision whether they think we should put people on Mars or not.

 Image of Dot the Dog

    ○   **Where do they start, where do they finish?**

The player starts on Planet Earth and travels to Planet Mars. They finish on a question whether they think we should put people on Mars or not.

    ○   **Describe the science in your program**

The science in my game includes how it long it would take to travel from Earth to Mars, some facts about the atmosphere of Mars, the length of a day and a year on Mars compared to Earth, whether there is water on Mars, and that Mars has the tallest volcano found in the solar system.

    ○   **Describe how the program integrates the science**

The science is integrated into the game by the player learning the information as they go on the interactive journey with Dot the Dog

    ○   **Bibliography: a list of references used**

Carney, Elizabeth. Mars – The Red Planet. National Geographic Kids (2016) pp 4,5,9,10,14

Space colonisation – Top 3 Pro's and Cons
Last updated 3rd Jan 2023
https://www.procon.org/headlines/space-colonization-top-3-pros-and-cons/
Accessed 14th July, 2023

One-quarter of Americans are interested in living in a Mars colony for the rest of their lives
Last updated July 15, 2021
https://www.today.yougov.com/topics/travel/articles-reports/2021/07/15/americans-interest-living-mars-poll
Accessed 17th July 2023

    ○   **Acknowledgements**