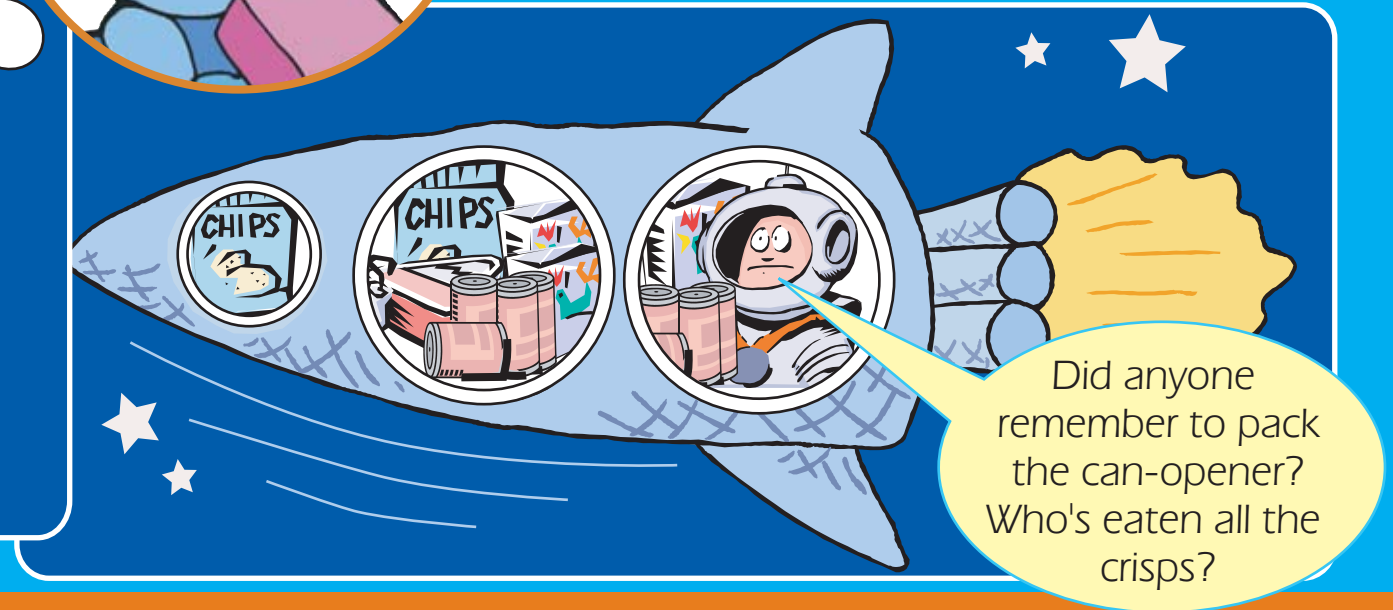
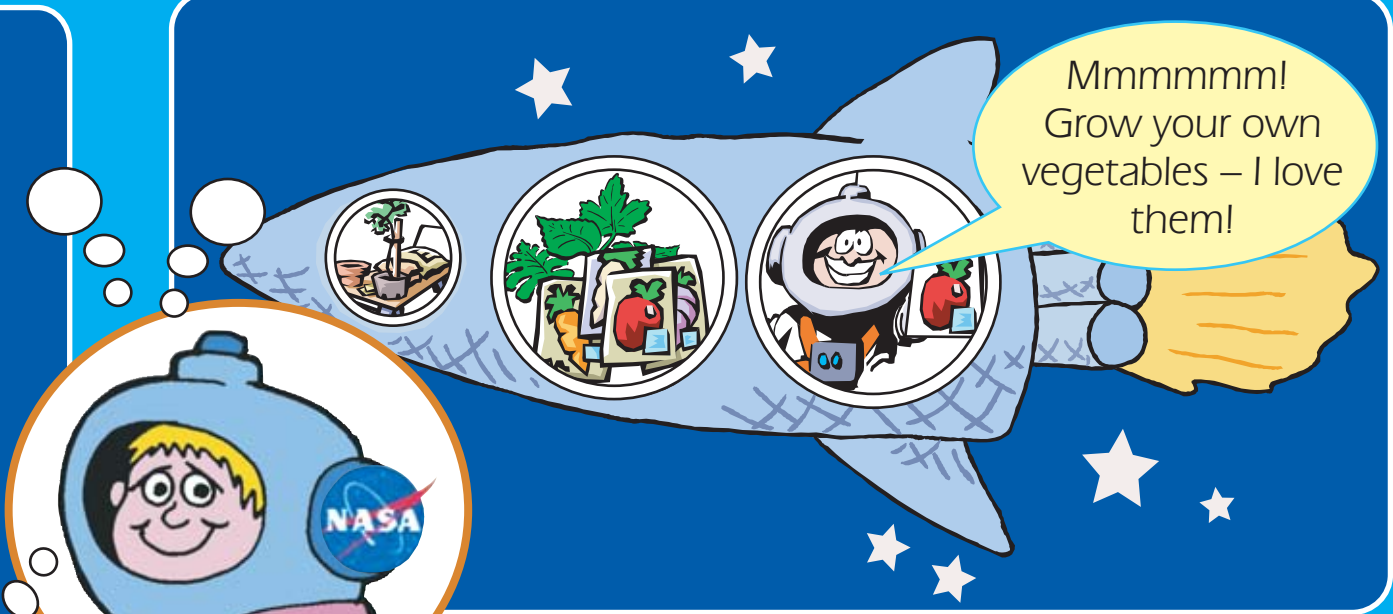
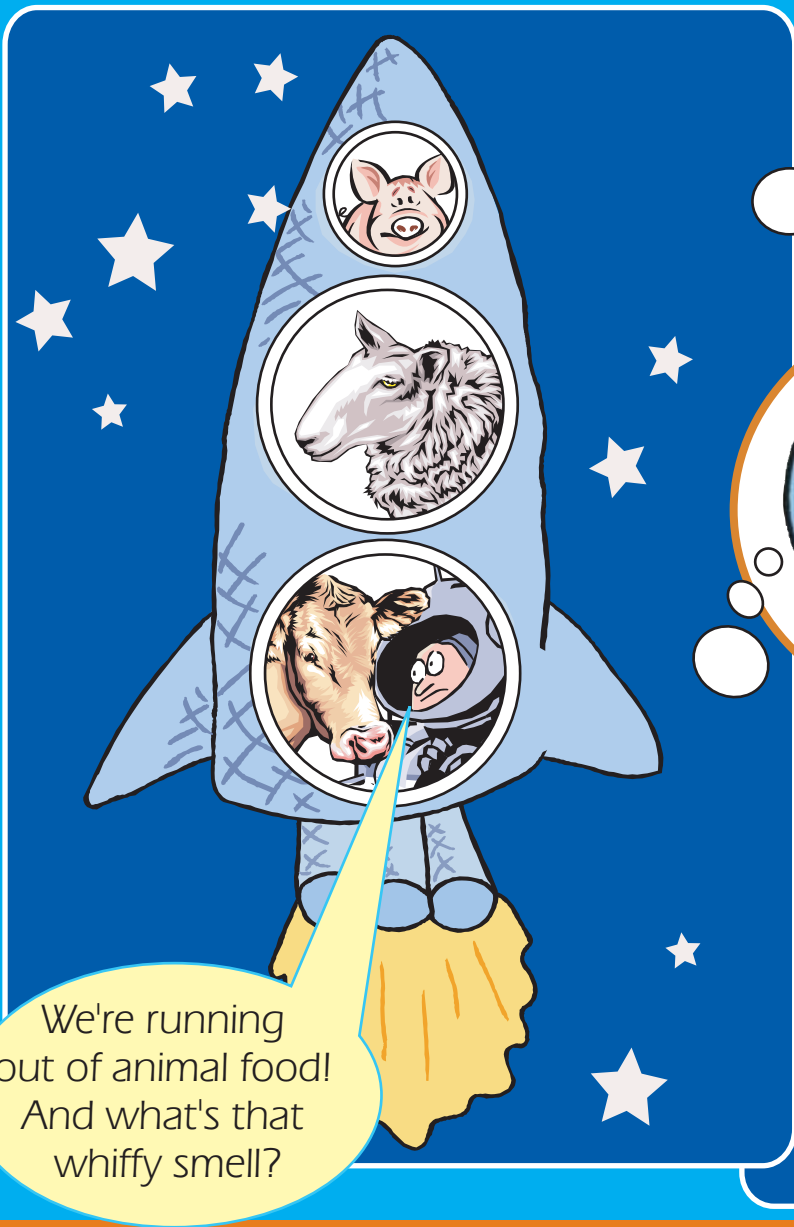


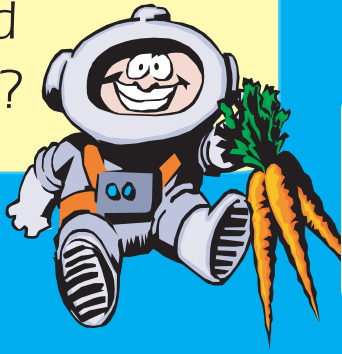
Martian Masterchef

What will we eat on a long mission to Mars?
Which of these three options is the most likely? Now plan an investigation.



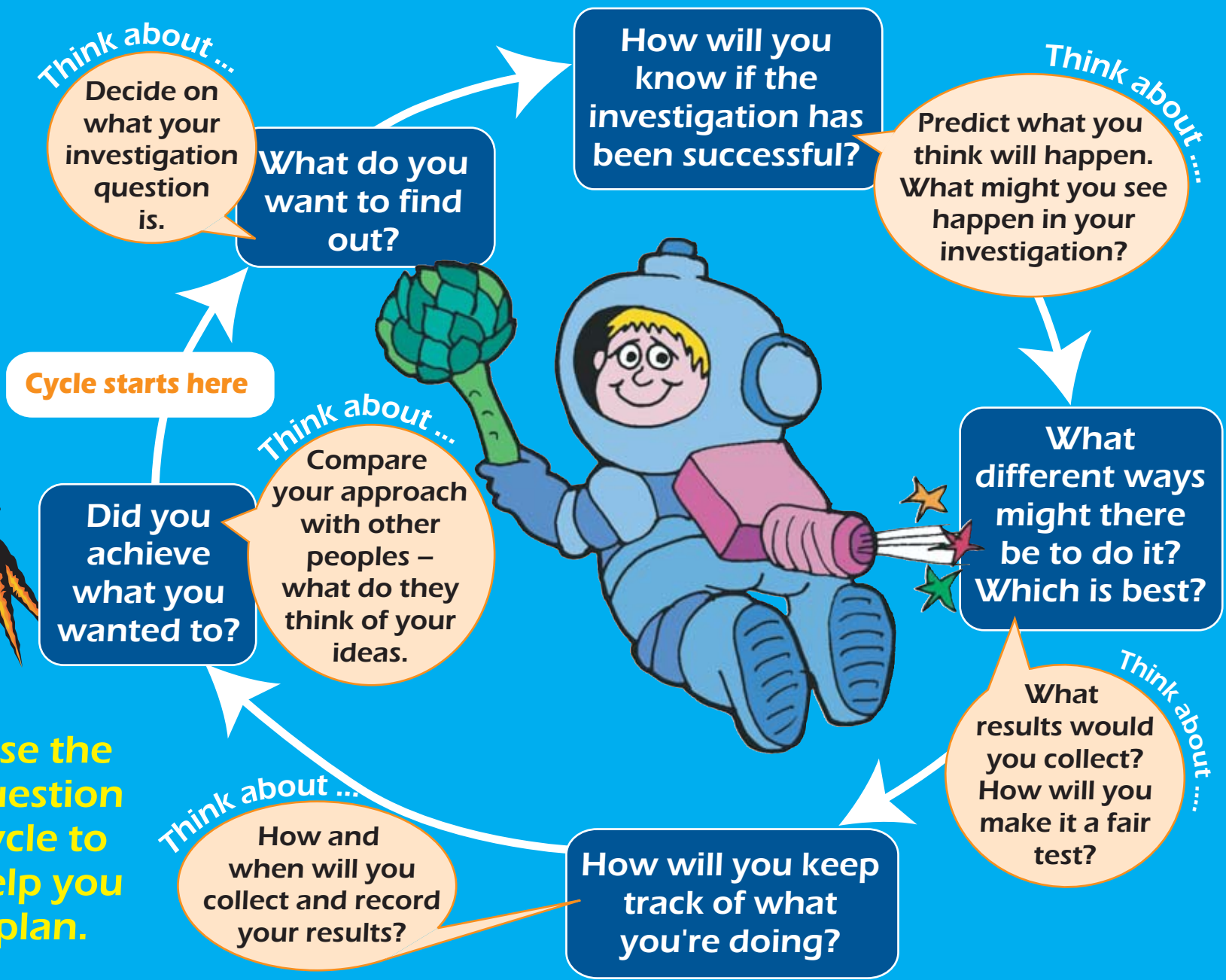
Astronauts who arrive on Mars will make oxygen, food and water for themselves.

But what do plants need to grow and can these things be found on Mars?



Plan and carry out an investigation to help NASA test out the idea of growing plants on Mars.

Use the question cycle to help you plan.



Scientists are looking for ways to grow a healthy and flourishing vegetable patch on the Red Planet.

Christophe Lassuer of the European Space Agency says that:

"The plants will probably be grown in greenhouses, but we don't know yet if it will be natural or artificial light. Certainly, they won't be grown directly on the surface of Mars."



Mars Fact File

- Mars is the 4th planet from the Sun. Earth is the 3rd.
- Days on Mars are 37 minutes longer than days on Earth.
- Mars is called the Red Planet because many of its rock and soil formations are red or pink in colour.
- Surface temperatures on Mars vary a lot, from -133°C to 27°C , but the average is only -55°C .
- Scientists are still not sure if liquid water exists on Mars.
- The atmosphere of Mars is very different from Earth and has only small amounts of gases. There is only a trace of oxygen.
- Mars is a windy place at times with huge dust storms that can last for months.

When the astronauts have succeeded in growing the plants it will be important that they can harvest fruits and vegetables from them. They will need to encourage the plants to complete their life cycles so that new seeds are produced.

