

Model template for writing technical description (Curiosity Rover)

Definition	Curiosity Rover – a NASA robot designed to explore Mars
Function	Travels around the Gale Crater on Mars, collecting data to send back to Earth. Its mission is to see if Mars could ever have supported life, and if humans could survive there someday
Overview	Car-sized, 6 wheel robot, about 7' tall, with a roughly square chassis that has several appendages connected to it that house sensors of various types
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Main body protects the computer, electronics and instrument systems• “Neck and head” like a mast coming out of the centre of the chassis, this houses many of the rover’s cameras• Six legs – “rocker bogie” design – wide apart, allows all wheels to remain on uneven terrain• Arm – roughly 7' long, (with “shoulder, elbow and wrist” joints), with a “hand” at the end, extends out of the front of the chassis. This contains many tools for drilling, collecting samples, etc.• “Tail” – contains radio-isotopic power source that powers the rover
Visuals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall view (front and side? Top view?)• View of arm with labeled components• View of head and neck with labeled components
Conclusion/Supplemental	Information about lifespan? Travel speed? Energy use?
References	NASA website – Mars Curiosity Rover page